Oxfordshire Guardian

Bicester and surrounding villages

Weekly leisure guide for in and around Oxford

Thursday, March 1 - Wednesday, March 7, 2018 oxfordshireguardian.co.uk Free

Protesters' anger at green belt homes

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A hole lot of fun but friends have a dig over poor roads

By Owen Hughes

BICESTER briefly became a 'garden' town as green-fingered guerrillas went viral in their plot to fill "cavernous" potholes with compost and flowers.

More than 30 potholes on Boston Road, Churchill Road, Buckingham Road and surrounding streets and roundabouts were packed with flora to make the council "take notice" of the severity of road deterioration in the town.

Alyson Clifton, caterer at Bicester Buffets Sandwich Bar, took to the streets with trowel in hand alongside friend Kizzy Burt to raise public awareness of the problem.

Alyson said: "The point was that we wanted the council to sit up and take notice and hopefully do something about all the cavernous potholes.

"There are so many craters on the roads that it's just a joke.

"I had a couple of hours free from work one afternoon. Kizzy and I thought we would have a giggle by filling in the potholes ourselves and it just sort of escalated from there really.

"We put some where we knew they would get run over straight away, but it didn't matter, we just wanted the problem to get noticed, which it has."

Despite being told by bystanders that what they were doing was breaking the law, the duo were undeterred from stuffing the potholes with greenery. The vigilante gardeners reported 11 of the potholes to the council before splashing out around £7 on compost and shrubs.

Alyson's post on a community Facebook group went viral reaching more than 800 likes and 150 shares within 24 hours, with the majority of the 130 comments supportive of Alyson and Kizzy's scheme.

She added: "I'm sick of all the doom and gloom, I like to go on Facebook for a giggle. I just wanted to give everyone a chuckle and I think I've done that."

Oxfordshire County Council recently received an extra £1million in funding from the Department for Transport to patch the county's roads.

Between January and February 20, more than 3,510 potholes have been identified and repaired with a further 2,365 pending.

A spokesperson for Oxfordshire County Council said: "While planting flowers is an interesting idea the safest and most effective thing to do is to report the potholes to us via Fix My Street.

"The severe winter weather has had a major impact on the road surfaces and we are having to repair a large number of potholes.

"Potholes that pose a safety risk are dealt with as top priority."

Cherwell District Council declined to comment.

Alyson Clifton and Kizzy Burt filled potholes with flowers to draw the council's attention to the poor state of the roads in and around Bicester

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Council branded traitors over homes on green belt

By George Welch

MEMBERS of the public shouted "traitors" as controversial plans for 4,400 homes on parts of Oxford's green belt moved a step closer this week.

Protestors turned out in their dozens as Cherwell District Council agreed to have the partial review of its local plan examined independently.

The decision means a plan for 1,950 homes – the biggest site – east of the A44 at Begbroke and 1,180 homes north of Oxford between Cutteslowe and the A34 will go to an independent planning assessment.

The council is also seeking permission to build another 440 homes west of the A44 near Yarnton, a further 330 on the south and west boundaries of Kidlington and another 500 on the edge of Woodstock.

Although the homes could drastically impact life in villages north of Oxford, Cllr Colin Clarke, Cherwell council's lead member for housing, said the authority has an obligation to help Oxford City Council meet its housing needs.

> *"... in some cases there is very little choice but to build on green belt"*
> *Councillor Colin Clarke*

He said: "I can understand the views of the residents in the southern part of the district but at the end of the day from my point of view the right decision was made and had to be made. Whether we like it or not, central government is pressing local authorities to build more and more homes and in some cases there is very little choice but to build on green belt."

Thousands of homes could now be built on land supposedly designated to preserve undeveloped wild or agricultural land around urban areas.

Oxfordshire County Council and Highways England were among those to raise concerns about the potential impact of increased traffic in the area arising from the plans.

Outside the meeting at Bodicote House in Banbury demonstrators chanted "save our green belt" and "stop Oxford's sprawl".

Helen Marshall, director of the Campaign to Protect Rural England Oxfordshire, said: "We need housing but what we really do need is the right housing in the right place and we don't think the plans Cherwell is putting forward meet either of those criteria."

The council also approved plans to buy Castle Quay shopping centre in Banbury and build a multi-million pound leisure complex next door.

InBrief

Cleared of rape

A MAN accused of raping a clubber in a city centre alleyway has been cleared of all charges.

Suranga Wijethunga, of Speedwell Street, Oxford was found not guilty at Oxford Crown Court following a six-day trial that ended on Tuesday last week.

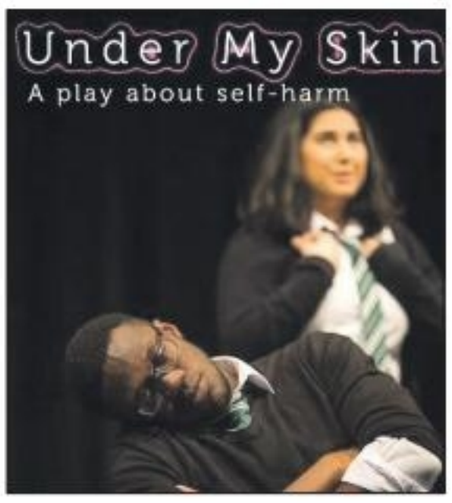
The 32-year-old was also acquitted of engaging in sexual activity without consent. Jurors were told by prosecutors Mr Wijethunga had raped the woman near Atik nightclub in the early hours of June 18 last year.

Growth deal agreed

ALL six Oxfordshire councils have now approved the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

Chancellor Philip Hammond said the five councils – plus the county council – would be given £215million for infrastructure, to provide affordable homes and planning to build 100,000 homes by 2031.

Cherwell District Council was the last to give its support this week.



Award-winning self-harm play returns to schools

AN award-nominated play aimed at challenging the taboos about self-harm is returning for a third tour of Oxfordshire schools this month.

Under My Skin has been raising awareness about the issue among the county's teenagers and promoting the services available to young people affected over the past two years.

The play will be shown to Year 8 and 9 pupils as part of an initiative to tackle self-harm and related stigma.

Self-abuse accounted for more than 552 hospital admissions of people aged 10-24 in Oxfordshire in 2015/16.

The play, commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council and produced by Pegasus Theatre, was performed in 30 schools in 2017.

Since starting in 2016 it has reached more than 10,000 young people in Years 8 and 9 across the county.

Hilary Hibbert-Biles, responsible for public health at the county council, said: "Self-harm can be difficult to talk about and we wanted to continue using Under My Skin to help empower young people to discuss the issue openly and honestly, ensuring they know how and where to access support if they need it."

Following its first run, the play was a finalist in the Public Mental Health and Wellbeing category for the Royal Society for Public Health Awards, in October 2016.

Visit tinyurl.com/yb66tmhs for more information about the play and to book tickets.

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Baby Belle's a little beauty

MEET Belle, the first white rhino to be hand-reared at Cotswold Wildlife Park.

Animal keepers separated the 11st infant, who guzzled nearly 18 pints of milk a day, from mum Nancy after needing treatment for an injured leg.

A team of rhino keepers were with her 24-hours a day until she could be reintroduced to her mother Nancy.

Belle was born in October with her right foreleg twisted over, meaning she stood on her carpus joint, similar to a wrist.

Belle has since gained more than 34st, her leg has healed well and she is spending more time with her mum. She now drinks around 74 pints of milk a day.

Belle enjoys some of her 74 pints a day from keeper Hayley and inset, in her plaster cast
Pictures: Cotswold Wildlife Park

Be flowery and fabulous

AN iniative to reverse the decline of wild flower meadows was launched at Blenheim Palace last week.

Land management consultant James Gillies unveiled his 100 Meadows project confirming that the historic palace in Woodstock would establish the first one.

He said the decline in wild flower meadows over the last 50 years has affected wildlife habitats, adding: "By creating a small patch of wildflower meadow everyone, regardless of size of garden and soil type could help increase biodiversity and habitats across the UK."

Blenheim Palace's head gardener Hilary Wood said they were absolutely on board with organic and natural landscapes. She said: "This is our first chance in the Palace gardens to create a dedicated wild flower meadow and we are delighted to be counted as the first of the 100 Meadows. Everyone needs to do all they can, our wildlife needs every ounce of help anyone can give."

The team launching the scheme on Friday stressed that even the smallest patch of land can make a difference.

Community ecologist for Wild Oxfordshire Roselle Chapman added: "If every parish council could convert that corner of land into something 'flowery and fabulous' or plant meadow strips around sports fields where mowers can't reach anyway it would make a significant difference."

From left, James Gillies, Hilary Wood and Roselle Chapman at the launch

Call for views on housing numbers in local plan to have a fair hearing

By George Welch

A VILLAGE expected to receive the bulk of homes as part of a housing plan hopes the latest consultation will not be 'the same whitewash' as previous ones.

The Eynsham/Woodstock area has been allocated most of the homes, with its share all but doubling to nearly 6,000 from original proposals.

A total of 2,750 of these are Oxford's unmet housing need and will be located in an extension of west Eynsham and a new Garden Village to the north of the A40 near Eynsham.

Eynsham Parish Council chairman Gordon Beach criticised the lack of infrastructure to be built alongside the developments and accused the district council of ignoring feedback and producing too much of the local plan 'behind closed doors'.

He added: "It is clear WODC is determined to push through their local plan and to ignore all representations made to them.

"There appears to be no vision to provide this from our local MP, the county council or the district council.

"In WODC they appear to be happy to dump housing on places like Eynsham and to ignore all local views."

West Oxfordshire District Council launched a public consultation on the further changes to the latest local plan draft proposal on Friday.

The draft plan, which identifies areas of housing development up to 2031, was originally submitted in 2015 but pushed back due to concerns about the proposed housing target.

An initial set of changes proposed by the council in 2016 saw the target increased from 10,500 homes to 15,950, and now to 18,549.

Mr Beach added: "Transparency in local government is yet to reach west Oxfordshire.

"We have no faith that this latest consultation will have any impact and evidence indicates that WODC will just ignore all matters raised."

The inspector wrote to WODC in January saying a number of further changes need to be made to be legally compliant and 'sound'.

Cllr Jeff Haine, cabinet member for planning at WODC, said the document is "vitally important" to the development of the district.

Consultation on the changes is taking place until 5pm on April 9.

A response form and more information on the proposals can be seen at westoxon.gov.uk/localplan2031

InBrief

Grants on offer

A TRUST which has handed out more than 200 grants totalling in excess of £22,000 since it was set up in 1995 wants more people to get involved.

Carterton Educational Trust is urging people to apply for grants over the next few months.

The trust will hold its annual meeting on May 21. Its patrons include Witney MP Robert Courts,

For more information, visit cartertoneducationaltrust.weebly.com

Lucan's top hat sold

A TOP hat which belonged to the notorious Lord Lucan has sold for £2,200 at auction.

It was one of several items from Lady Lucan's estate sold in Banbury this week.

A wine cooler was bought for £1,500 and an umbrella and two walking canes were sold for £500.

Lord Lucan vanished after the body of Sandra Rivett, nanny to his three children, was found at the family home in 1974.

Best companies

WITNEY-BASED Audley Travel has been named in The Sunday Times 100 Best Companies to work for list.

Based in New Mill on the banks of the River Windrush, the travel company has now featured on the prestigious list eight times since 2006 – and this year ranked 63rd.

The Westgate's new cocktail bar The Alchemist was named at number 36 and Peach Pub Company which runs The Fleece in Witney among others, has risen to 43rd.

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Travellers leave shopping village park and ride

BICESTER Park and Ride was left strewn with rubbish after travellers abandoned the site on Tuesday afternoon.

Caravans and vehicles left gas bottles, bin bags and general rubbish all over Bicester Park and Ride off the A41, near Bicester Village.

More than 40 caravans and vehicles moved onto the Cherwell District Council site less than 24 hours after Oxford City Council issued a group of travellers at its Pear Tree site with court notices on Thursday last week.

City councillor Alex Hollingsworth, board member for planning and regulatory services, said: "Occupations of this kind cause great inconvenience to car park users as well as costing councils money in legal, repair and clear up costs and lost revenue.

"The legal process necessary to move people on is lengthy and I call on the government to look at streamlining it so that any further such disruptions can be more swiftly resolved."

As well as Pear Tree, both Thornhill and Water Eaton Park and Ride sites have been occupied by travellers already this year.

Travellers are currently set up on a car park at the Ozone Leisure Park on Grenoble Road, next to Oxford United's Kassam Stadium.

From left, Spratt Endicott Solicitors managing director David Endicott, north Oxfordshire MP Victoria Prentis and chairman John Pratt

Solicitors delighted at recognition in Commons

A NORTH Oxfordshire law firm will be celebrated at a House of Commons event on Monday to celebrate top industry practices.

In recognition of Spratt Endicott Solicitors' inclusion in the illustriously titled Parliamentary Review magazine, Banbury MP Victoria Prentis paid a visit to offer her congratulations.

The legal company, which has offices in Banbury and Bicester, features alongside the Prime Minister and a small number of organisations in a document that looks back on the year in the legal sector and Westminster.

Managing director David Endicott, said: "To be featured in the Parliamentary Review is a real honour and it's testament to how far we've come as a business over the last 15 years that we were asked to contribute.

"We pride ourselves on the high standard of our work and the specialist expertise we offer our clients, so to be held up as an example of best practice just serves to reinforce the belief we have in the quality of the legal services we provide."

Mrs Prentis said she was delighted: "It is appropriate recognition for all the hard work and helpful advice they have given the people of north Oxfordshire and beyond over the last 15 years."

InBrief

Woman killed after rush-hour collision

A WOMAN in her thirties has died after a traffic collision on a north Oxfordshire road.

The fatal crash occurred in the Portway, Kirtlington, towards Lower Heyford at around 8.40am on Tuesday.

The driver of a silver Toyota Yaris travelling northbound along the Portway was killed when she collided with a dark grey Skoda Yeti travelling in the opposite direction.

She died as a result of her injuries at the scene.

The driver and passenger of the Skoda Yeti both received minor injuries and were taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital.

Witnesses should call 101 quoting reference 227 (20/2), or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Annual meeting

RESIDENTS of Witney are invited to the town council's annual meeting on March 14.

The meeting at the Corn Exchange is an opportunity for people to question their councillors on issues that affect the town.

Witney Town Council will report on its work over the past year and provide information on future projects.

To submit a question in advance email it to info@witney-tc.gov.uk

Mayor-to-be calls for town to pull together

By Owen Hughes

CARTERTON must pull together to repair its "damaged" reputation.

That's according to town councillor Martin McBride who was elected as Carterton's next mayor after a unanimous vote at a council meeting.

Mr McBride will replace the outgoing Lynn Little in May. Mrs Little faces legal action from Carterton Town Council if she does not return an alleged £4,835 of public funds paid to non-charitable activities.

The council claims a donation from the Mayor's Allowance Account was made to the Ted Little's Veteran's Home, an organisation that Mrs Little manages.

Speaking at the meeting on Tuesday last week, Mrs Little denied the allegations pointing out that the police and monitoring officer had discontinued their investigations, and said it was "imperative the other half of the coin's story is told".

Mr McBride, who served as deputy mayor to Mrs Little in 2015, said: "We've got quite a bit of ground to make up over the perception of the wider Carterton and its council.

Martin McBride will take over from Lynn Little as mayor of Carterton in May

"We've got to come together and unite to improve the perception of Carterton from outside because the last year has perhaps damaged our reputation.

"We need to do it in an open and transparent way so that all the members of the council know what's going on and the residents of Carterton can see what the council is doing."

Last month, Mrs Little told this paper that she had been "the subject of a vendetta" from council members after a vote of no confidence was carried at an extraordinary meeting.

The motion was put forward by Mr McBride and Cllr Michelle Mead who said Mrs Little should resign for "failing to adhere to Council policies".

Mr McBride said: "I'm certainly looking forward to the opportunity of trying to bring together the council to work as one for the good of Carterton and its residents."

He added that in order to "achieve the true potential of Carterton", the council must work with existing and prospective businesses "to make Carterton an excellent place to shop and bring up families".

Mrs Little was contacted for comment.

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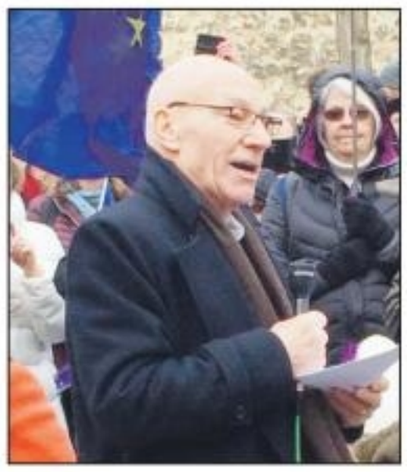

The Brexit bus in the city centre and inset, Layla Moran MP and Sir Patrick Stewart address the crowds
Pictures: *Oxford for Europe*

Exit from Brexit calls as bus pulls into city

By George Welch

DOZENS of pro-EU campaigners undeterred by sub-zero temperatures demanded 'an exit from Brexit' as they welcomed a 'banned' bus to Oxford city centre.

The bus, emblazoned with 'Brexit to cost £2,000million a week', stopped at Oxford's Bonn Square for about an hour on Monday as part of its 33-stop national tour.

Speakers, including actor Sir Patrick Stewart and Oxford West and Abingdon MP Layla Moran, roused campaigners, as well as stirring a reaction from hecklers.

Sir Patrick said: "I want to urge that we think again, now that we are learning the real cost of Brexit.

"At the front of all our passports, the words read: European Union and then United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

"If Brexit happens, those first two words will be erased and I will offer it to immigration officials around the world with less pride than I presently do."

He added: "The first time I was on the continent after the [EU] referendum it was on the colourful streets of Ghent and Bruges.

"I felt distinctly uncomfortable, bordering on shame, that my country was now seeking to unravel all that had been achieved."

Mrs Moran added: "I believe in miracles, I really do. Do you remember how we deprived Theresa May of her hard Brexit at the last election?

"Since being elected last June I feel like I've had the front row seat to a car crash. It is time to stop this."

Other speakers included Cathie Wood (Oxford for Europe), Catherine Bearder MEP (Liberal Democrat, South East England), Dr Helen de Cruz (Oxford Brookes University), Drew Galdron (Boris Johnson impersonator), Pater Burke (Oxford GP) and Elise Benjamin (Green Party and former Lord Mayor of Oxford).

Hecklers cut in accusing the campaigners of being undemocratic.

Oxfordshire County Council refused to allow the bus to stop on Broad Street, where organisers Oxford for Europe had wanted it to park.

The authority said it had to be politically neutral but after admitting it was wrong to do so, refused it as the event did not merit removing traffic restrictions.

The tour began in Camden and Islington on Wednesday last week and concluded in Luton yesterday.

Trade fair to showcase students' skills

SECONDARY school pupils are putting their business nous to the test at a trade fair.

The students will be taking part in Young Enterprise's flagship programme to set up stands and sell their products on Saturday.

The event in Abingdon Market Square aims to give youngsters first-hand experience of setting up a commercial business and to develop their skills.

Supported by HSBC, 16 teams from 11 schools will offer a range of products including a contactless card security product, personalised recipe box sets and a social enterprise raising awareness of the dangers of teenage drug use.

Students have made all the decisions about their businesses and have worked with volunteer business mentors for the community who offer advice and guidance.

The schools taking part are: S Helen & S Katharine, Abingdon; Abingdon School; Our Lady's Abingdon; Larkmead, Abingdon; Wheatley Park School; St Clare's International, Oxford; Rye St Antony, Oxford; Wychwood School, Oxford; Oxford Academy; Oxford International College; Bloxham School and Tudor Hall, Banbury.

H&M Orchard Centre opening date revealed

ONE of the largest stores at Didcot's Orchard Centre is set to open its doors on March 22.

Clothing retailer H&M is offering womens, mens and childrens clothing at the new store covering a floor space of 1,500sqm.

The shop will open for the first time at 11am and the first 200 in the queue will receive an exclusive goody bag.

All customers who join the queue before the opening time will receive a 25 per cent discount wrist band to use against all their purchases on the day.

Shoppers can then trawl the racks to the sounds of an instore DJ.

"The first time I was on the continent after the referendum... I felt uncomfortable, bordering on shame, that my country was now seeking to unravel all that had been achieved"

Sir Patrick Stewart

Poundland killer made threats to a neighbour

Inquest hears of danger before store stabbing

By Owen Hughes

AN Abingdon killer who stabbed a father of two to death in the town's Poundland store had previously threatened to murder his neighbour, an inquest heard.

Dr Phil Davison told Oxford Coroner's Court that Trevor Joyce, of Franklyn Close, was admitted and discharged from a mental health centre after confessing to threatening a neighbour's life.

The inquest heard that Joyce, who posted a death threat through his neighbour's door, told his psychiatrist that if they had been in when he knocked on their door, he would have killed them.

Joyce was arrested four times in one week just two months before the attack, before he was voluntarily admitted to Littlemore Mental Health Centre.

He was allowed to leave on October 28 2015 and just six weeks later Joyce grabbed a knife from the shelf in the Abindgon Poundland store in the shopping precinct and stabbed Justin Skrebowski, a 61-year-old art dealer from Sunnymead, Oxford.

Justin Skrebowski was stabbed to death in December 2015, his killer Trevor Joyce was jailed for life the following year

Mr Skrebowski was buying balloons for his wife Gulsen Alkan's 39th birthday when Joyce attacked him on December 7 2015 at around 11.20am.

Joyce was sentenced to life in prison in 2016 with a minimum of nine years for the manslaughter of Mr Skrebowski with diminished responsibility due to his mental functions being diminished or impaired.

More than 40 people are due to give evidence in the two-week long inquest which will examine the treatment given to Joyce, who has been diagnosed with schizophrenia.

Mrs Alkan strongly fought for the inquest and in the months following her husband's death launched an online campaign for tighter control over the sale of knives in shops.

More than 52,000 people signed the petition to Prime Minister Theresa May, leading to 11 retail giants agreeing to safer storage of knives in stores, including Poundland.

In March 2016, Waitrose, Tesco, Morrisons, Asda, Sainsbury's and Lidl also agreed to change the way they sell knives, alongside John Lewis, Wilko, Argos and Amazon UK.

Mrs Alkan said at the time: "I cannot say this makes me happy because I wish so very much that it had never happened and that Justin was with me and our twins now, but it is the only thing that has brought me peace."

Joyce had been sectioned under the Mental Health Act on three occasions since 1997.

Ejector seat firm fined £1.1million for pilot's death

SOUTH Oxfordshire ejector seat manufacturer Martin-Baker has been fined £1.1million for a health and safety breach which resulted in the death of a Red Arrows pilot.

Iraq veteran Flt Lt Sean Cunningham, 35, was ejected while conducting pre-flight safety checks at RAF Scampton in Lincoln 2011.

The parachute on the ejector seat failed to deploy and the South African-born airman later died in hospital.

Martin-Baker, which carries out testing in Chalgrove, admitted failing to ensure the 35-year-old's safety at a hearing on January 22.

At Lincoln Crown Court on Friday, the firm was handed a £1.1m fine and had already agreed to pay £550,000 in prosecution costs.

Sentencing the company, Mrs Justice Carr said it was "an entirely preventable tragedy".

In a statement, the company said: "Our thoughts remain foremost with the family and friends of Ft Lt Sean Cunningham, to whom the company conveys its sadness, regret and apology."

The firm admitted the health and safety breach on the basis it had failed to provide a written warning to the RAF about over-tightening a bolt on the aircraft.

The company claims to have saved the lives of 7,560 aircrew.

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News

Team GB hopeful's plea for return of her prosthetic leg

Swimmer has her specially-adapted car stolen

By George Welch

A Team GB para-swimming hopeful has been left devastated after her customised car containing a prosthetic leg was stolen.

Oxford swimmer Rosie Bancroft had her house broken into and car stolen from her shared accommodation in central Manchester on Sunday.

The dark blue convertible Fiat 500 has been specially adapted for the 23-year-old as she does not have a right leg and foot.

The accelerator has been switched to the left side to enable her to use it, making it difficult for the thief to drive far.

It also contained the prosthetic leg Rosie uses for sports, making it a struggle for her to continue training.

The University of Manchester zoology student, also a coach for the swimming club team, made a plea for information on social media.

"My car had my prosthetic leg in. I have got a prosthetic leg I was wearing at the time. The one in the car was for sport. It has taken months to get that fitted and to wear it in," she told the Manchester Evening News.

Rosie Bancroft and above, her Fiat 500 which was stolen in Manchester and contained her sports leg

"It is the first time I have had one to use in the gym. I use it for training.

"It is such a special thing for me. Nobody is going to have a use for that apart from me."

Rosie, who used to live in Horspath, added: "I don't have a right foot, the left accelerator has been switched to the left side. They would have been driving with the pedals the wrong way.

"I used to joke nobody would steal my car as how could they drive away in it."

Rosie has been training with Team GB coaches for the past three years and is hoping to compete for a medal at the games in Tokyo 2020.

She is appealing for anyone who may have seen her car with the Oxford licence plate of OY65 XRZ to get in touch with police.

Greater Manchester Police are investigating.

Firefighters battled the blaze at the thatched house on Goring

Thatched roof severely damaged

THE roof of a "beautiful" thatched house in Goring was "severely damaged" by an enormous fire.

Firefighters from Oxfordshire and neighbouring Berkshire were called to the blaze in High Street at around 9.45pm on Friday.

Crews reported being able to see the glow of the fire from as a far away as Didcot and, on arrival, were confronted with a "very large and rapidly developing fire".

Firefighters had to fetch water from the Thames to help tackle the intense fire.

The fire is not being treated as suspicious and an investigation into the cause of the blaze is ongoing. Nobody was hurt.

Group manager Jason Crapper said: "Given the time at which this fire occurred, it is fortunate that the fire was spotted by passers-by otherwise the losses could have been even greater.

"I'm hopeful that the rapid intervention by the initial attending firefighters from both Oxfordshire and Royal Berkshire will enable the building to be repaired."

Goring county councillor Kevin Bulmer described the home, known as the Boathouse, as "beautiful".

He added: "Firefighters deserve praise for fighting and containing the fire in a location that, apart from plentiful water, would have been a difficult one to fight a fire from."

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More people need to use food banks

MEP's report reveals 20% rise

By George Welch

FOODBANK usage in Oxfordshire has risen by almost 20 per cent over the last four years, according to a new report.

The research, published on Friday, details the extent to which people have to rely on emergency food parcels.

According to Keith Taylor MEP, foodbank dependency has risen by more than 18 per cent since he published his first report in 2013.

He puts the increase down to low pay and welfare cuts 'pushing more people into food poverty'.

"My report reveals a shameful side of the British economy that is deliberately hidden from view by the government," Mr Taylor said.

"As wages continue to stagnate, as Brexit continues to push up the cost of living and as the government forces ahead with its welfare cuts and the disastrous rollout of Universal Credit, there is little hope this situation will improve under the current administration."

He added: "Across the UK, foodbank use has soared by at least 65 per cent with even nurses being forced to rely on emergency food parcels as the reality of Britain's record in-work poverty levels hit home."

Use of food banks has risen in Oxfordshire in recent years according to Keith Taylor MEP

The government does not collect data on how many people use food banks.

A foodbank was set up last year at a primary school in Prime Minister Theresa May's constituency of Maidenhead.

Restoring a piece of history

A HUGE crane has sprung up at Wallingford railway station as rebuilding work on the historic structure got under way in January.

A Brunel-era canopy is being installed following a sizeable £235,000 restoration grant from the Railway Heritage Trust.

The canopy was in place for more than 130 years at Maidenhead railway station but was removed as part of improvement works in October 2014.

The rehoming project has taken more than two years to establish the amount of work required to rebuild the historic structure in Wallingford.

Cholsey and Wallingford Railway vice-chairman Tony Stead said: "There has already been a huge amount of planning to get to where we can start restoring this historic structure.

"We have already achieved a lot since the crane arrived on site and are continuing to make progress each week."

Work is expected to be completed in early 2019.

The railway's next running days are over the Easter Weekend, with heritage trains running on March 31 and April 1 and 2.

The Cholsey and Wallingford Railway is organising the Mayor's Railway Show which is taking place in Wallingford Town Hall on April 28.

Anyone wanting to help on the canopy, or any other projects, is invited to contact the society on its Facebook page, website or to call in to the station on any Saturday.

The crane and canopy laid out ready for work to begin
Pictures: *A Stead*

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News

Connor Sparrowhawk death: medical tribunal rules on doctor's fitness to practice

Doctor's apology for 'personal failings'

By George Welch

A DOCTOR responsible for the death of Connor Sparrowhawk has finally apologised to his mother – five years after the 18-year-old died in a bath while supposedly under close supervision.

The Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service (MPTS) last week decided that Dr Valerie Murphy's fitness to practice was impaired.

She was responsible for 39 failings before Connor's death and has been suspended for a year.

Connor had epilepsy and drowned in a bath after suffering a seizure at the now-closed Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust's Slade House in Headington.

Dr Murphy failed to consider the implications of allowing him to have a bath on his own with staff checking every 15 minutes, as well as failing to make any risk assessments.

Up to this point there had been an absence of remorse but, at the tribunal, Dr Murphy accepted all the failings she had made and apologised to Sara Ryan, Connor's mum.

She said: "Words cannot express the remorse I feel at how my failings have contributed to the death of [Connor]. I am sorry that I did not seek to meet with [Connor's] mother and her family and that this has left them feeling like I did not care.

Connor Sparrowhawk drowned in a bath in 2013 Picture: *Justice4LB*

"Nothing is further from the truth. I have made apologies but I do agree that reading these now, they appear general and do not address an apology for my personal failing.

"I would like to set out in no uncertain terms, that I do apologise for my own personal failing and the role these had on the death of [Connor]."

She added: "I really did 'take my eye off the ball' in this case."

The MPTS said Dr Murphy's suspension would give the doctor time to reflect on her misconduct, and her case would be reviewed before it ends in a year.

Connor's death on July 4, 2013 led to the discovery that Southern Health had not properly investigated 272 unexplained deaths in its care.

In September, the trust pleaded guilty to breaching health and safety law in Connor's case. It will be sentenced at Oxford Crown Court on March 19 and 20.

Mum hits out at 11th hour remorse

IT is five years this July since Connor Sparrowhawk was left to drown by people who should have been caring for him.

His mum, Sara Ryan, *pictured*, published a harrowing book last year as part of her half-decade fight for justice in his name.

Part of that struggle has been fighting for accountability for what happened to her son.

In a post-tribunal statement, Ms Ryan said: "Our beautiful son died a terrible death nearly five years ago now.

"Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust chose not to refer Valerie Murphy, Connor's responsible clinician, to the General Medical Council (GMC) for investigation.

"Instead they referred six nurses to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). We had to refer her ourselves.

"Over the past four years, Valerie Murphy has repeatedly failed to show any remorse and has failed to apologise to us.

"She has allowed her legal counsel on two occasions to subject me to cruel cross-examination insinuating I was somehow responsible for his death. At the sanction hearing she apologised to the tribunal for Connor's death.

"This experience has been unimaginably brutal and not unusual. Families whose loved ones die in state care are commonly re-traumatised by these processes."

She added on Twitter that the "truly extraordinary" apology was "remorse at the 11th hour".

Although Dr Murphy is banned from practicing in the UK for 12 months, it does not prevent her from working in Cork where she is registered with the Irish Medical Council.

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News

More than three million foodies have attended the popular South Parks festival since it launched in 2005

Perfect recipe for food fest

FOODIES will be dancing in the moonlight to raise funds for a homelessness charity when the gastronomic Glastonbury returns to Oxford this summer.

British band Toploader, known for their Platinum hit cover of King Harvest's Dancing in the Moonlight, will headline the Foodies Festival at South Parks on August bank holiday weekend.

Power pop group Dodgy and rockers The Hoosiers will be the cherry on top when they also take to the brand new Musicians Against Homelessness music stage.

Alan McGee, patron of Musicians Against Homelessness, said: "Foodies Festival is the UK's largest food and drink festival and with such fantastic summer events it seemed a natural link to partner with a festival that reaches the hearts of so many local communities.

"In turn, we're confident that they can help us raise awareness and funds for our homelessness charity Crisis by bringing popular headliner bands to their stages alongside some of the country's best unsigned musical talent."

An all-star line up will be cooking up a storm in the Chef's Theatre, including Great British Bake Off winner 2017 Sophie Faldo, Giancarlo Caldesi, Pete Gray of The Hinds Head in Bray as well as Great British Bake Off finalist 2017 Steven Carter Bailey.

Tickets are available from www.foodiesfestival.com.

Didcot Power Station 2nd anniversary: victims

Unprecented investigation

By George Welch

THE two authorities behind the 'almost unprecedented' multi-million pound investigation into the disaster at Didcot Power Station will interview more people under caution over the coming months.

Giving an update on the case, Thames Valley Police and the Health and Safety Executive also paid tribute to the men who died and their families.

A minute's silence was held on Friday to mark the two years since Didcot was rocked by the partial collapse of Didcot 'A' power station.

Families, politicians and the people of the town fell silent at 11am in respect to the four workers who died in the tragic building collapse on February 23, 2016.

The community has vowed never to forget and the Didcot Town Council flag was flown at half-mast.

A frustratingly long investigation into what happened, why and who was responsible continues with February 23 marking 732 days since the fateful events.

The body of 53-year-old Mick Collings, from North Yorkshire, was found on the same day as the collapse.

But the bodies of Ken Cresswell, 57, and John Shaw, 61, both from Rotherham, and Christopher Huxtable, 34, from Swansea, remained in the rubble. It took 201 days to find and recover the bodies of all three men.

TVP and the HSE admitted they did not expect the investigation to go on this long. Nearly 2,000 witness statements have been taken and many more are to be conducted, the Force confirmed.

Police Assistant Chief Constable Jason Hogg said on Friday: "Our thoughts today are with the family and friends of the men, as well as with those who were injured as a result of the collapse.

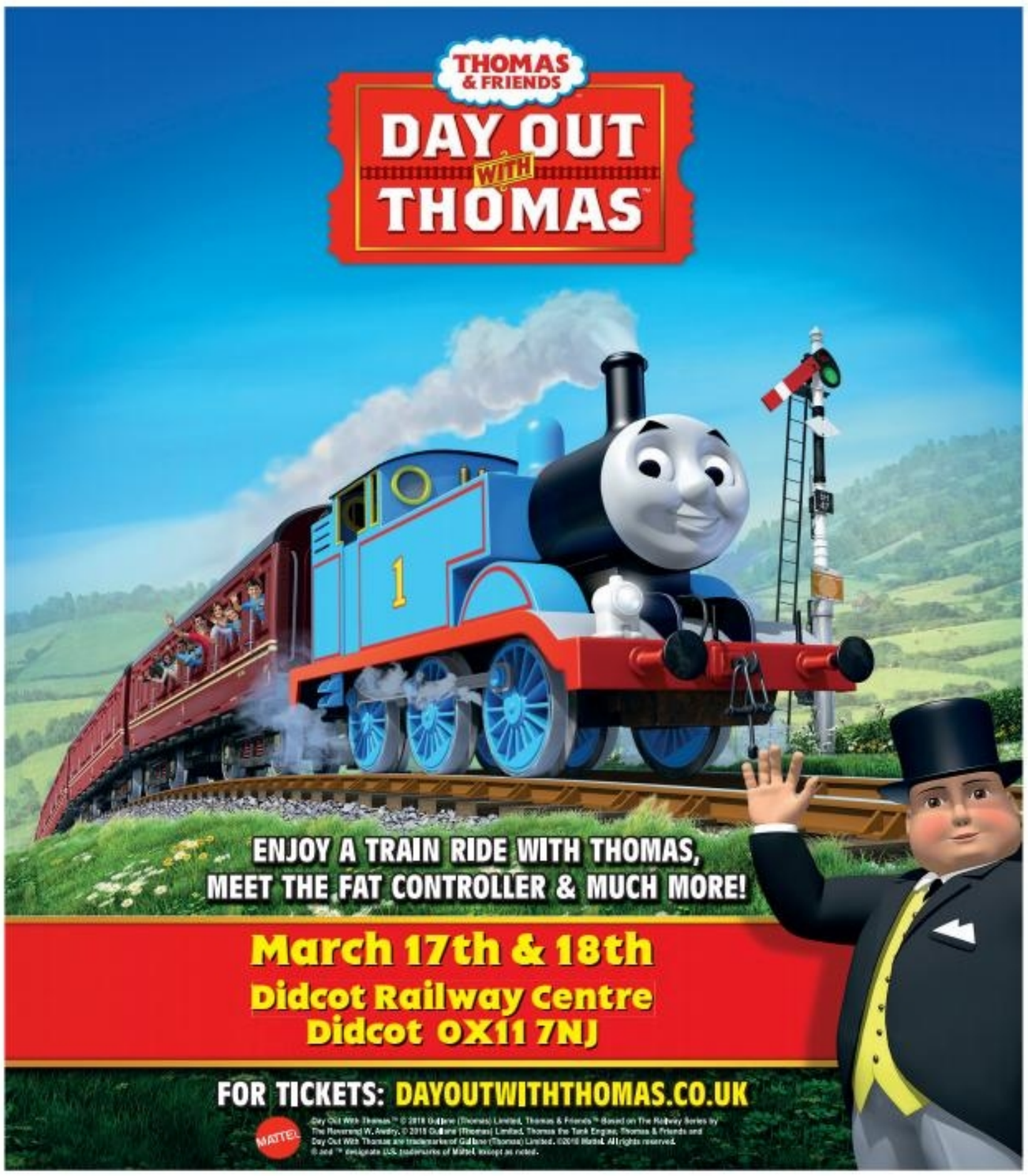
"We continue to offer support to the affected families, and provide them with regular updates on the ongoing investigation.

"They are at the centre of everything we do while we investigate the circumstances of the collapse."

He added: "This is a highly complex and almost unprecedented investigation in terms of scale and the volume of evidence that has been collected so far.

"I am aware of the need for answers as soon as possible, however we have a duty to thoroughly investigate the circumstances surrounding the collapse and we will not compromise on this."

The site is still a crime scene and a police scene guard remains in place 24/7.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remembered as inquiry continues with 2,000 statements made

to get to the truth

Above, image shows the four boilers on March 17, 2016 after the collapse and below, an aerial shot shows the scene as of January 25, 2018

PETER Blake, the chief inspector of construction at the HSE, has described the investigation into the power station collapse as 'unique and highly complex'.

On-site recovery continues and evidence has been gathered from boilers one and two. Evidence is still being collected from boilers three and four.

More than 1,900 statements have been taken from witnesses so far and a number of people have been interviewed under caution, with each interview taking hours at a time.

The four boilers weighed around 15,000 tonnes each, and so far evidence has been amassed from around 50,000 tonnes of that material. TVP said they are analysing more than 3,900 exhibits.

Mr Baker said the authorities are working "tirelessly" to 'find answers and get the truth for the families'.

He added: "This investigation will also find out if any criminal offences have been committed. The incident in Didcot was unique and the investigation is highly complex, both in scale and nature and therefore will take time to conclude."

A spokesperson from RWE Npower, which owns the site, also said the process "remains complex".

In a statement, the energy company added: "This dreadful day took the lives of four men... they remain in our thoughts and we remember them and their families, especially at this time.

"We are committed to completing the evidence recovery works and the clearance works as soon as possible [so] the police and HSE can progress their investigation and the full site can be returned to RWE control."

Family flees toaster fire

AN Oxford household had to evacuate after Sunday breakfast took a fiery turn.

Residents of a Nowell Road home in Rose Hill fled after their toaster caught fire and threatened to take hold of the kitchen.

The incident happened shortly before 10am on February 18.

Two fire engines arrived on the scene with a fire spreading from the back of the property.

The flames were extinguished using high-pressure hose reels, and damage was contained to the kitchen.

Incident commander, crew manager Michael Milling, of Slade Fire Station, said: 'The occupiers of the property were alerted by the smell of smoke and the actuation of the smoke detectors. They managed to close the kitchen door to minimise fire spread and smoke damage to the rest of the property and made their way safely out of the property before calling the fire service.

"I would also like to remind the public to ensure that you have working smoke alarms that are tested weekly and not to leave cooking unattended."

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Charity of the year 2018 – Helen & Douglas House

Great Wall of China trek to help 'second family'

By George Welch

WALKING the spectacular Great Wall of China is a bucket list classic – but one ardent fundraiser will walk a 50km stretch for very different reasons.

Nayaab Iqbal, from Headington, has signed-up for Helen & Douglas House's Great Wall of China Trek in memory of her brother Haider, who died in 2012 aged just 12.

The 21-year-old wants to give something back to our charity of the year which cared for Haider from just eight months old.

He was born five weeks prematurely with a rare, life-threatening condition called Raine Syndrome, which causes bone deformity.

Haider died at Helen & Douglas House and the charity still helps the family, including Nayaab's parents and younger brother, with counselling, support groups and activity days six years after his death.

"I really want to take some time now to give back to Helen & Douglas House and everything they have done for us," Nayaab said.

"I thought what better way than to jump straight in the deep end with trekking the Great Wall of China. I can picture Haider laughing at the thought of this already but I know he loved Helen & Douglas House and he would be so happy about this."

She added: "Haider truly lived his life to the full, enjoying every moment and taking us on his incredible journey with him, with laughter, love and joy.

"On Haider's last day, Helen & Douglas House were so accommodating to our beliefs and made what was the hardest time for us, somewhat better.

"They became like a second family and I can honestly say I don't know what we would have done if it wasn't for the support and care of the incredible staff at Helen & Douglas House."

The charity is appealing for others to take on the daunting challenge, taking place from October 27 to November 4.

Stretching over 5,500 miles, the Great Wall of China is the longest human-made structure on the planet. Located in north China it crosses vast deserts, barren plains and snow-capped mountains.

Visit tinyurl.com/y8b8yv9j or call 01865 799166 for more information and to register your interest. Donate to Nayaab at tinyurl.com/ya22w2v8

Gemma Deacon of Bloor Homes delivers cupcakes to nursing staff at Helen & Douglas House on Random Acts of Kindness Day

Housing developer builds relationship

POORLY youngsters and nursing staff at Helen & Douglas House got their teeth into some tasty treats on a day that celebrated special things people do for others.

Housing developer Bloor Homes donated the yummy cupcakes as part of last month's Random Acts of Kindness Day.

Vanessa Macnee, sales director for Bloor Homes, said it was important for the company to support important causes within the surrounding communities of their developments.

She said: "When we began work on our nearby developments in Drayton, Thame and Chinnor we quickly became aware of Helen & Douglas House and the fantastic support which its staff provide for patients and their families in the local area.

"On Random Acts of Kindness Day we therefore wanted to make a small gesture to recognise the efforts of all the staff at Helen & Douglas House – we hope that the cupcakes came as a nice surprise and that they were enjoyed by all."

The east Oxford hospice cares for around 250 patients from across Oxfordshire and the south east.

InBrief

Rate healthcare

HEALTHWATCH Oxfordshire has launched a TripAdvisor-style website to help people rate and share experiences about health services.

Healthwatch launched the website because it believes health and social care can be improved if the public can easily express their views. Have your say at the feedback centre on the site.

Visit tinyurl.com/y8llh8cw.

Car thieves sought

POLICE are on the hunt for thieves who stole a car from an Oxford road.

A Volkswagen Golf was taken from Upper Fish Row between 11.30pm on Monday last week and 8.30pm on Wednesday last week.

It is not known how many people were involved in the theft or how the keys to the vehicle were attained.

Police have provided a partial registration, which is GD17F**.

Call 101 if you have any information.

Name town heroes

RESIDENTS are being urged to nominate their local hero for the annual Thame Town Awards.

Voting opened on Monday for awards – Service with a Smile, Volunteer, Sporting Achievement, Creative Arts Achievement and Lifetime Achievement.

For more information go to thametowncouncil.gov.uk

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News

The disabled spaces at Oxford Parkway. Picture: @IsabelOakeshott

Picture sparks controversy

A PICTURE taken by journalist Isabel Oakeshott criticising the number of disabled parking spaces at Oxford Parkway train station sparked controversy on social media.

The former political editor of the Sunday Times posted the image on Twitter last week.

The image of empty blue badge bays at the station was accompanied with the post "a triumph of political correctness over common sense".

In response to those who highlighted the number of spaces for all drivers, Ms Oakeshott said the spaces were disproportionate, "unless the Paralympics are coming to Oxford".

She added: "The entire car park is full except this area…it was so packed that all the motorbike spaces were full of cars."

The post had more than 1,200 replies and retweets as well as 2,200 likes.

In reply, Twitter user Tristan said: "There are around 700-800 non disabled spaces there and 40 disabled. Don't see what the problem is."

Another user, Richard Bentall, said: "Do you think it's wrong to have disabled parking places? Or is your complaint that, in this one particular place, someone miscalculated the number required?"

In response to that, Ms Oakeshott said: "I think you know the answer to that question. Unless the Paralympics are coming to Oxford, pretty obvious this is disproportionate."

According to National Rail, Oxford Parkway has 800 spaces, 40 of which are for disabled motorists.

Spreading the word to encourage library use

By George Welch

OXFORDSHIRE'S libraries are "thriving – not just surviving", according to Libraries Minister Michael Ellis.

The Northampton North MP was one of more than 100 guests to attend last week's official opening of Oxfordshire County Library.

He toured the facility and spoke to staff and volunteers about the library's transformation and wider network of 43 county branches.

Mr Ellis said: "This is a wonderful example of a library that is an integral part of the community here and I want to congratulate the county council, and all the staff, partners and volunteers for all the work they have done to rejuvenate this library.

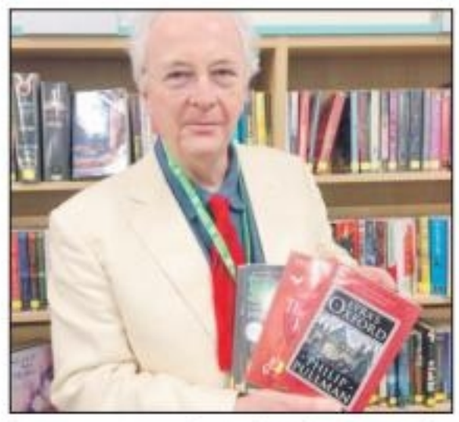
"We want to see libraries thrive – not just survive –and this is an example of a library that is clearly thriving.

"This is a classic example of how to do it and protect our libraries, and they are still greatly valued by many people."

His Dark Materials author Phillip Pullman was also left 'very impressed' by the revamped library, which has picked up more than 2,000 members since it re-opened its doors.

Mr Pullman called last year for a halt to the "shocking decline" in England's school libraries. It is believed a quarter of schools have no librarian.

Oxfordshire county councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, responsible for property, cultural and community services, emphasised the role the library would play in terms of access to council services.



Libraries Minister Michael Ellis MP and county councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale and, above, Phillip Pullman

She said: "This library is the hub that coordinates the services in a network of 43 libraries across the county.

"We want our libraries to be seen and used as dynamic focal points for the people they serve, bringing people together and helping to cement a true sense of place."

She added: "I am proud of the fact that Oxfordshire has kept all its libraries open and this could not have been done without working in partnership with communities. The hard work and commitment of community groups has been instrumental and I need to thank them all."

The updated £6million library stores 500,000 books and 70 public computers.

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For further information please contact Festival Director Em Marshall-Luck at The English Music Festival, PO Box 123, Clunton, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 7BP or by email to: em.marshall-luck@englishmusicfestival.org.uk.

Broadband boss reaps rewards

BUSINESSMAN Matthew Hare has been recognised for helping spread fast speed broadband across rural, hard to reach communities.

The Appleton man became the first British industry professional to receive the prominent Individual Award from the Fibre to the Home (FTTH) Council Europe awards in Valencia last month.

Mr Hare is the chief executive of Gigaclear, which he established in 2010.

Based in Windrush Court, Abingdon, it is now the UK's leading supplier of full fibre broadband to rural locations across the country. It connected its 15,000th customer earlier this year.

President of the FTTH Council Europe, Ronan Kelly, said Mr Hare impressed with his 'personal vision and relentless ambition' over the years to cover rural Britain with faster internet speeds.

Living in rural Oxfordshire, Mr Hare is no stranger to internet connectivity and reliability problems.

He said it was an "honour" to be recognised, adding that the accolade "is testament to the work we have been doing to tackle rural isolation".

Gigaclear chief executive Matthew Hare and Ronan Kelly, president of the FTTH Council Europe, on stage at the annual FTTH conference

InBrief

Poppy appeal cash

THAME residents, businesses and street collectors raised an impressive £22,362 at last year's Poppy Appeal.

The fundraiser was four months ago but the town council has only just confirmed the total amount. Organisers thanked donators for their generosity and support.

Contact 0808 802 8080 if you want to join the street collecting team for this year's appeal.

Premier primaries

OXFORD primary schools could soon be kitted out in Premier League quality gear as a national scheme opens for applications.

The Primary Stars Kit and Equipment initiative allows primary schools to apply for free equipment to encourage active classroom and PE lessons.

Pupils in Blackbird Leys and Rose Hill will receive coaching from Oxford United as part of the Primary Stars project.

Schools should apply before April 6 at: https://plprimarystars.com/kit-scheme

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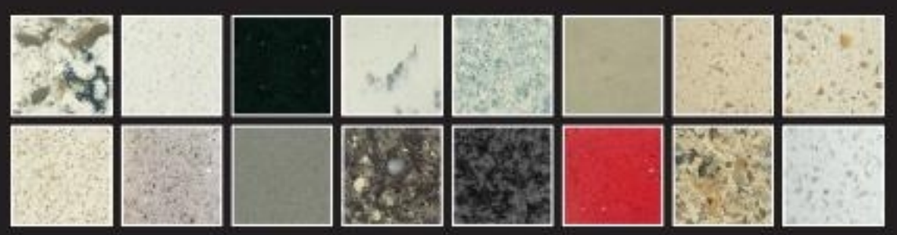

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Out&About Competition

WIN tickets to an evening of Johnny Cash at the Anvil

Closing date: Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Clive John is an accomplished singer, songwriter based in Malvern, Worcestershire. However, Clive is better known to thousands across Europe as the voice of Johnny Cash as he plays the lead role in the critically acclaimed theatre production – 'The Johnny Cash Roadshow.' this is the only show to be endorsed by the Cash family.

You have the chance to experience this first hand when the show comes to the Anvil on Wednesday March 28.

The spirit of the Man in Black is alive and 'kicking like a mule' with an outstanding celebration of the iconic legend by the Carter/Cash endorsed Johnny Cash Roadshow.

This is gold standard, fire-cracking entertainment from the first note, delivering an inspired set of cherished numbers with impeccable rhythmic pace. A dynamic performance from an unparalleled group of highly talented musicians and a guaranteed treat for country music lovers and die hard Cash fans alike.

The stage lights up with a colourful explosion of energy, against a striking backdrop of classic screen imagery of the 'real deal'. Clive John, captures the essence of Cash with exceptional style and confidence. His deep, distinctive vocals are spot on, evoking pure country magic with Walk the Line, Folsom Prison Blues and A Thing Called Love.

Charismatic duets are superb. Renditions of Don't You Think It's Come Our Time and Jackson, encapsulate the tender charm and uplifting humour shared by the late enigmatic pair. The music doesn't miss a beat as the set glides seamlessly along, evoking a timeless quality of a golden era with fresh contemporary flair.

Martin Bentley (bass) is in a league of his own and Nick Davis (guitars) and Darren Bazzoni (drums) first class. Backing vocals by Louise Masters and Amanda Stone add sparkle and glamour as the Carter sisters, complimenting the line up with equally impressive versatility.

Win tickets!

We have two pairs of tickets for this amazing night of music and to be in with a chance of winning one all you have to do is answer the following simple question:

Q: In what year was Johnny Cash born?

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to
www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk
For full terms & conditions go to www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk/about-us

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The advertised price is correct as of 4 September 2017 and is based upon departures from Gatwick airport on 15 April 2018.

Organised by Omega Holidays plc, ABTA V4782. ATOL Protected 6081. Single supplement applies. Subject to availability. †We have included the current flight price within the above package price. Should the cost of flights change the package price may vary. The final price will be confirmed to you at time of booking.

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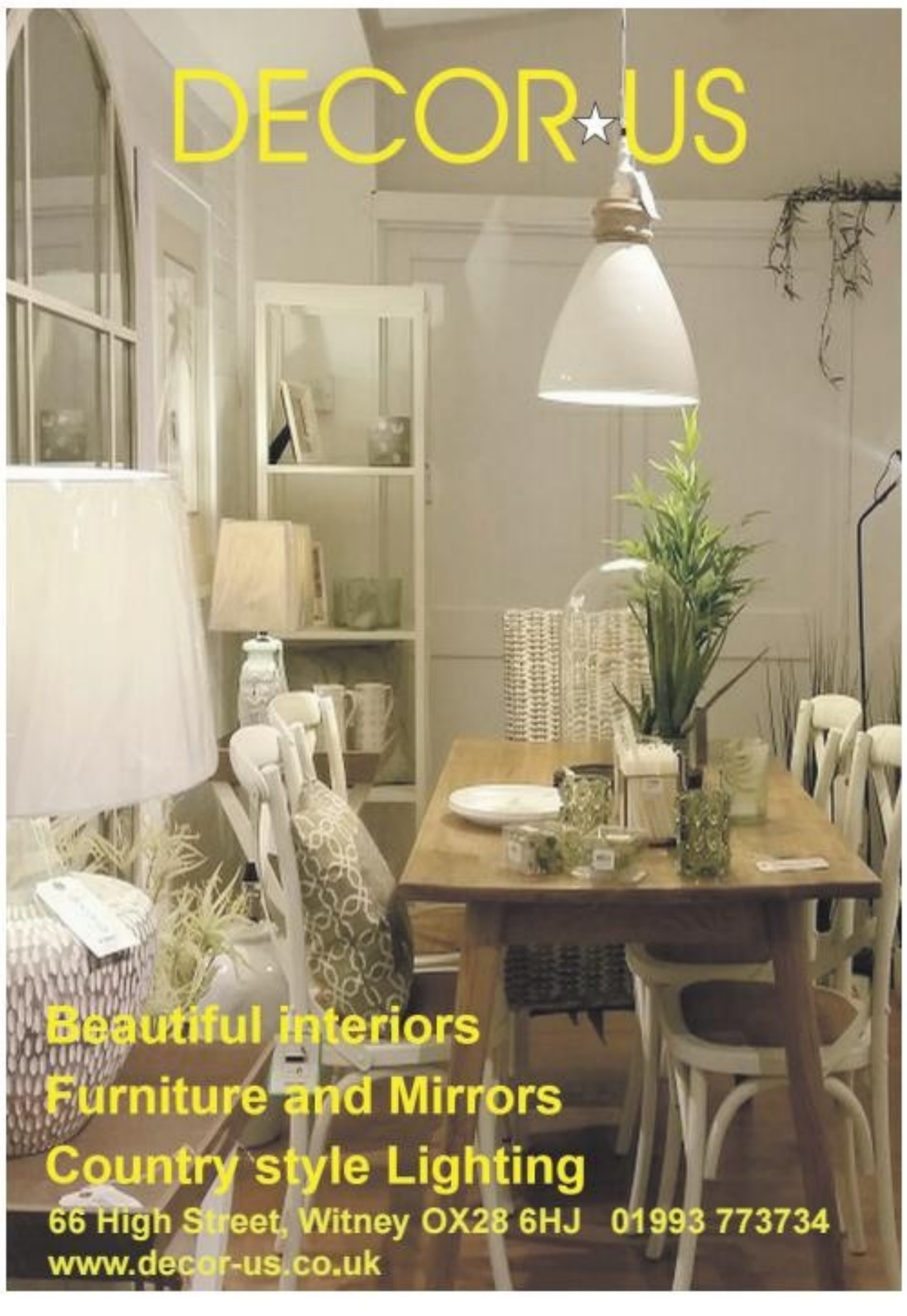

FENCING FEATURE ADVERTISEMENT

"I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today!"

Get ready for Winter

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system.

It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quiet a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from, constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes, and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me, there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality, value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view, Colourfence is the 'Rolls Royce' of fencing – just without the exclusive price tag. What's more, it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

For many Colourfence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 15 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects wooden fences, Colourfence has none of the drawbacks of wood - plenty of additional benefits and what's more it's better value!

Call **01865 582 171** for more information

Gardeners' Questions

Q Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

A The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence - once professionally installed - Colourfence really will stay up!

Q No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long.

A Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply want's to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! GUARANTEED!†

THIS WEEK'S JOB

†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

Head into Winter - with COLOURFENCE

The only garden fence you will ever need!

Every gardener knows that it pays to plan ahead. If you are one of the thousands of people who watched helpless, as winter winds battered their garden, it will not be a surprise that garden fences are almost always the first casualty. Whether you have previously patched, painted or simply prayed to keep your fence going, there's no escaping the fact that timber fences will always fall victim to the weather. With Colourfence you can put your garden straight once and for all. Colourfence is scientfically tested and cyclonically rated to ensure when professionally installed, it can withstand wind gusts of up to 130mph. Once it's up – it stays up and is guaranteed to look good year after year. Safe, extra secure and hassle free – you will NEVER need to paint it, treat it or patch it. An occasional hose down will be all you need do to keep it in top condition for years to come. In fact the system is so durable that Colourfence will guarantee† their fencing to last at least 25 years. Available in a range of colours to suit any garden, with or without decorative trellis, the highly skilled installation team make short work of their dramatic transformations. Your sad old fence will be e_ ciently cleared and replaced, leaving you to get back to enjoying your rejuvenated garden. Pricing is just as straightforward and equally attractive. Starting costs are in line with inferior timber systems but with no annual treatments required, Colourfence saves you time and money each and every year. Their aim is your peace of mind. With a 25 year guarantee† Colourfence speaks for itself and promises a lifetime of hassle-free enjoyment.

For more information and to arrange a FREE no obligation site visit simply call one of their helpful team on 01865 582 171.

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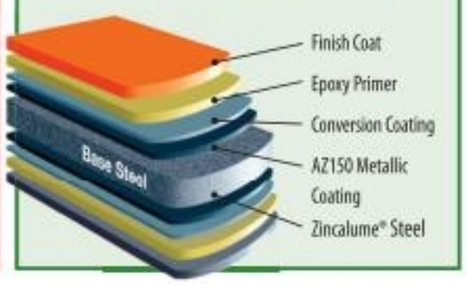

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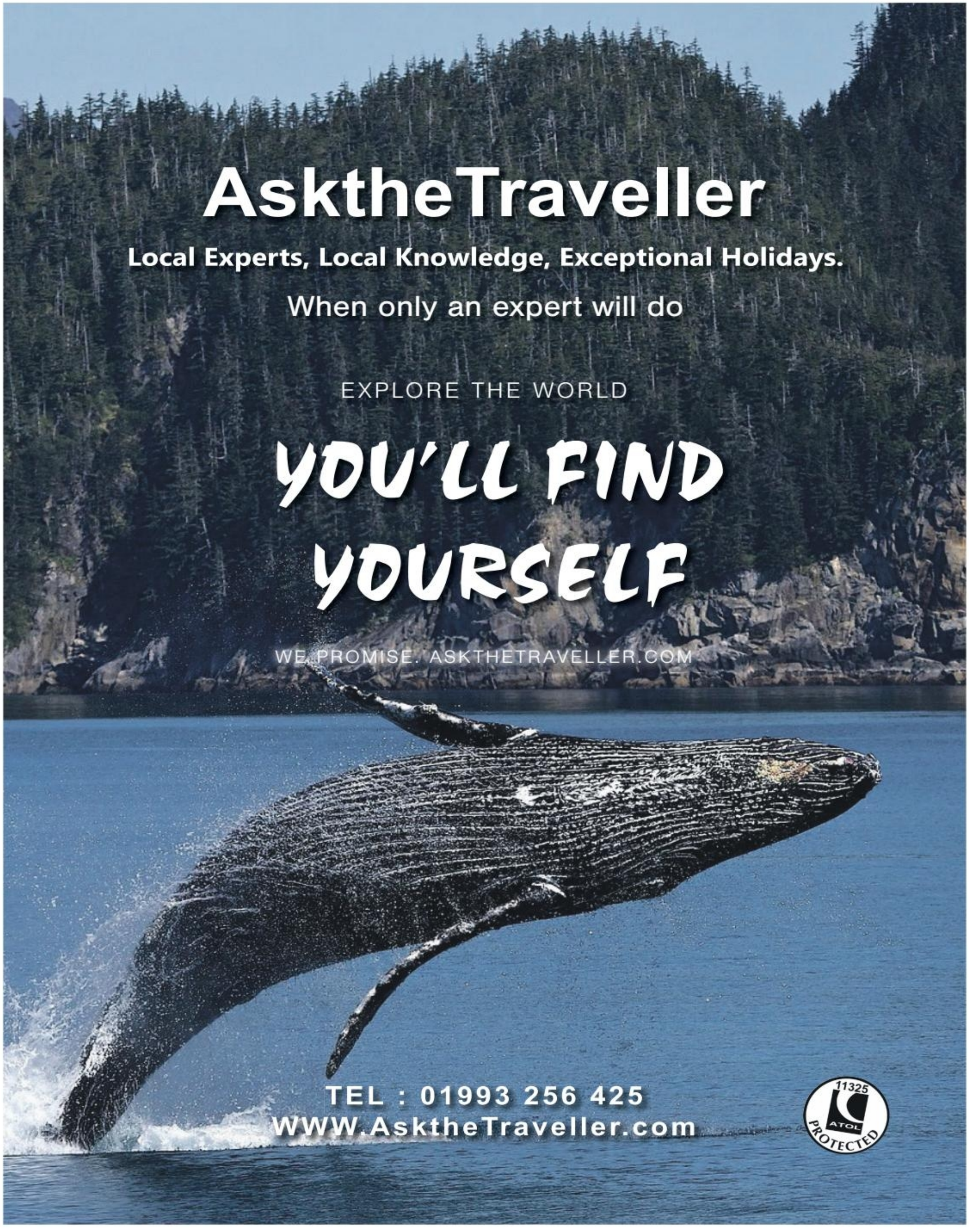
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Out & About

Join The Jacksons for disco day at Common People

A good habit to have

Sister Act Live Choir to light up New Theatre

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Out & About

Go mad at Common People and blame it on the boogie

By Samantha McGregor

THE line-up for this year's Common People festival has been announced with the legendry Jacksons headlining Saturday.

Saturday is Disco Day and as well as the 'world's largest disco ball' acts taking to the stage alongside The Jacksons include Prince's band The New Power Generation, Sparks and Boney M.

Sunday will feature James and Ride co-headlining, with Maximo Park, the London African Gospel Choir presents Paul Simon's Graceland and Craig Charles.

During the weekend there will a Kids Garden with a host of activities for children and young people including a huge bouncy castle, Gorilla Circus, BigTopMania circus skills and Cowley Road Carnival Dance workshops.

Brought by the organisers of Bestival, Common People takes place on May 26 and 27 in Oxford's South Park.

Rob da Bank said: "It's been quite some ride putting together the Common People line ups for 2018.

"We love South Park in Oxford a lot and it's become one of our favourite places to throw a party.

"Our Disco Day on Saturday also promises to be super funky with The Jacksons bringing their disco and soul classics, but my personal highlight has to be Prince's unbeatable backing band The New Power Generation coming over from the States for a one-off weekend with us.

"We couldn't get Prince but we will have all the hits.

"Add in all the local Oxford bands and DJs and a real focus on family fun and entertainment and I promise you a magical May weekend awaits."

Councillor Dee Sinclair, board member for culture and communities, said "We are looking forward to welcoming Common People back to Oxford for a third year.

"Each year it is an extremely popular event and has quickly become embedded in the Oxford summer experience.

"The festival brings people together for a weekend of fun, and hopefully sun."

Common People also features the Carnival Stage with performances from General Levy and Fred V & Grafix and the Uncommon Stage hosted by Nightshift.

Weekend tickets cost £57.50. For more information go to common-people.net

Choir is a real class act

ENJOY a live cinema experience when the Sister Act Choir tour rolls into Oxford this spring.

The classic 1992 musical comedy starring Whoopi Goldberg, is the latest film to receive the 'live cinema' treatment.

Sister Act Live Choir boasts a full-piece choir and band, as they accompany the onscreen nuns with live performances of songs from the film's original soundtrack.

This event also marks the 25th anniversary of the successful film and takes to the stage at Oxford's New Theatre on Friday, April 6.

Show founder Dele Aro said: "We are delighted to be touring this powerful and uplifting live cinema experience.

"We were delighted to see the shows connect such a large diverse group of people, to share in a unique experience and create new memories around a much-loved film."

Sister Act Live Choir features the Uplifted Voices choir, who have featured on BBC Gospel Proms, and provided backing choirs for the live shows on ITV's The Voice, Britain's Got Talent, and The X Factor shows.

The movie Sister Act tells the story of Vegas lounge singer Deloris Van Cartier who finds her voice at the heart of the church choir after she enters the witness protection programme and ends up living in a convent.

For tickets view atgtickets.com/oxford

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Most Artists Considered

CASH PAID

Folk with Americana feel

By Josh Cox

MULTI award-winning Scottish singer Emily Smith and New Zealand born songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Jamie McClennan have been making music together for 15 years.

Having spent much of 2016 off the road with Emily on maternity leave, the couple took time to focus on writing new material.

Fresh from the break, and with a plentiful offering of new music, the pair have announced a new UK-wide tour, and will be performing at The Mill Arts Centre in Banbury this April.

The tour will showcase a new sound for the duo drawing on influences from the folk tradition, Americana and beyond.

Meeting in 2002 when McClennan moved from New Zealand to Scotland, fiddle player Jamie soon became an integral part of Emily's sound, taking on the role of lead guitar and backing vocals and producing several of her albums. To date, they have performed throughout Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Russia and North America.

Alongside their solo careers they have performed with many musical greats including Richard Thompson, Barbara Dickson, Jerry Douglas and Mary Chapin Carpenter, as well as a host of TV and Radio appearances including Transatlantic Sessions, BBC Songs of Praise, BBC Radio 2's Good Morning Sunday, Bob Harris Show & The Folk Show with Mark Radcliffe.

Emily's original song Find Hope was also chosen as part of Radio 2's official playlist in December 2016.

With rich vocal harmonies, an accordion, a fiddle and a sublime guitar backing they are one of the most vibrant duos on the folk scene today. Together they have racked up fantastic reviews and praise from some of the biggest industry media including Americana UK, R2 and Maverick.

Emily and Jamie will be performing on Friday April 20 at 8pm. Tickets cost £16.

More information at www.themillartscentre.co.uk/

On stage

Country roads

Country star Trey Jackson will play at the Abilene Country Music Club in Barton, Oxford on March 17.

Jackson has quickly risen up the ranks in the music industry having released three albums and more than 25 songs in the past three years alone.

Entry is £6 on the door with the gig starting at 8pm.

One stop shop

Rockin' Shop, a local rock and blues band will be gigging at the Woodstock Social Club in Woodstock on Saturday.

The band features five music veterans who play a good blend of covers and originals with the collective aim of 'putting on a good show'.

The free gig starts at 9pm.

All the way from TX

The Cellar in Oxford will be hosting US band Sphynx on Thursday next week at 8pm.

The Texas natives have been compared to pop icons such as Prince and David Bowie and the trio's vibrant live shows have carved out their own niche genre of music.

Tickets are £8 in advance; the on-the-door price is to be confirmed.

>> Is your band playing a gig? Am dram group taking to the stage? Tell us – email josh@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Advertisement Feature

AsktheTraveller

The New Way of Booking a Holiday

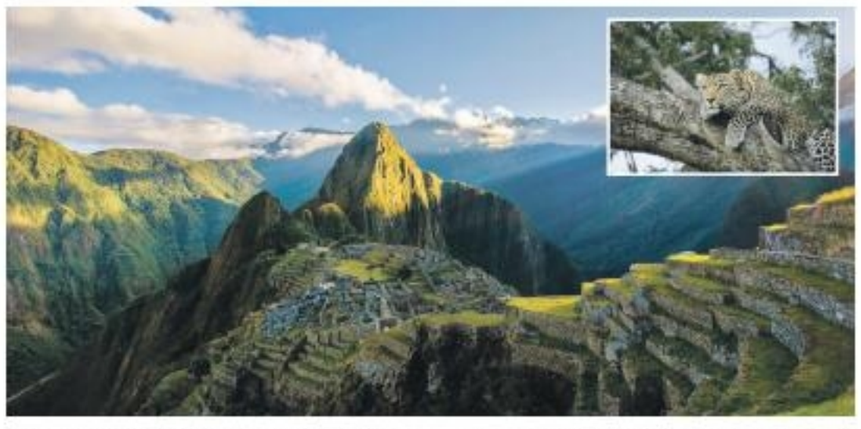
YOU have a destination or type of holiday in mind but you need an expert to really make it come alive, put some flesh onto the rough ideas. You really just need someone who has seen it before, done it and has up to date knowledge and experience about what's new, what's changed in the last 3,6,12 or even 18 months.

Some companies have truly brilliant travel experts. The problem is, it's sometimes pure luck to get the right person at the right time, the real expert in the office, the person who has just come back from your chosen destination 2 weeks or even 3 months ago. This is where AsktheTraveller makes a difference.

Initially based in Oxfordshire and run by a team with over 25 years Travel industry experience.

AsktheTraveller is a new and improved way of booking your next holiday.

What we are doing here is different to traditional tour operators/ travel Agents or even online booking engines, AsktheTraveller combines the best aspects of a full service human experience whilst using the technology of today to connect Travellers with the real Local Experts of the destination they wish to visit. Yes, we can still offer the 1 week hotel and flights just like everyone else after all we have been doing this for the very best in the UK for years. However, the real difference we offer is the ability to connect you directly with the destination you want to visit.



It's simple, what we offer is a real expert in your destination, communication directly, with all the insider knowledge and experience that only a local can deliver. You benefit from the real expert advice, the Local Knowledge, the communication directly with those on the ground effectively cutting out the middle men. Then the unique benefit of having the option to fully package the trips with international flights, visas etc. Finally all covered by the ATOL protection you need to make your holiday safe and secure.

Our local partners are the best. How do we know? Well let's just say we know who the traditional tour operators use. We have carefully vetted our partners as we know that service, knowledge, experience and exceptional value are what our clients really want.

Imagine being able to say I booked my holiday to India directly with "Dipta" based in India working for a company just like most Uk travel companies would have to use anyway. You just cut out the middle man, received the most up to date knowledge, experience and advice. Plus your flights from the UK are sorted, you're covered by ATOL in case anything goes wrong and you know you're getting amazing value for money. Yes, that is a big smile on your face!

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Out & About

The fate of the world rests in man's hands

By Josh Cox

NED is an engineer, excited about his top secret programme with the British Government.

To his family's horror, he's working on a type of military technology so advanced it will revolutionise modern warfare.

Starting to question what he is doing, Ned tries to control how his new weapon will be used – but he hasn't taken into account how far the Government will go to get what it wants out of him.

Landscape with Weapon is a modern day morality tale about WMDs (weapons of mass destruction) mixed in with family feuds and food fights. The play is hilarious yet moving with themes of love, family and politics alongside plenty of moral defining decisions.

It was written by the Olivier Award winning playwright Joe Penhall, writer of Blue/Orange and creator of the hit Netflix show Mindhunters.

Ronin Theatre Productions are the company behind the play running at the Andrew Wiles Building in Oxford from March 13 to 17.

Ronin Theatre is an innovative new company dedicated to performing modern and contemporary theatre. The only company in Oxfordshire committed to performing only modern plays, the company was founded by Ashley Hunt and Alistair Nunn who have between them been involved in Oxford's community theatre scene for more than a decade.

"Landscape with Weapon is a brilliantly entertaining and thought-provoking piece of theatre," said co-founder Nunn.

He added: "With its sharp dialogue and telling exploration of the world of the weapons industry, it's reminiscent of The Thick of It meets The Night Manager. If The Night Manager was set in Surbiton."

Tickets to see the show, and this landmark event for Ronin Theatre, range from £12 to £15. To book your place visit ticketsoxford.com or call the box office on 01865 305305.

Mallory Knox are Sam Douglas – vocals / bass; Joe Savins – guitar; Dave Rawling – drums and James Gillett – guitar

No Black Holes for Mallory Knox

After nearly nine years together, Mallory Knox recently announced frontman Mikey Chapman has decided to part ways with the band.

However, 2018 marked a new chapter and the group will be continuing Mallory Knox with Sam Douglas taking the lead on vocals.

Together, the band have been working hard behind the scenes writing and recording new music, including their new, critically acclaimed single Black Holes.

As part of the change-up, Mallory Knox will be once again taking to the road and touring the UK, which includes a night at the O2 Academy in Oxford.

Following on from the successes of 2017, which saw the band play the main stage at Reading & Leeds for the second time, as well as a whole plethora of festivals across the UK & Europe, Mallory Knox will be focussing on playing more of the 'intimate' and smaller gigs this year.

Still on a high from their third album Wired, you can expect to hear a run down of their previous hits as well as new material.

They will be playing at The O2 in Oxford on May 6 at 7pm. Tickets are £20.25 and can be purchased from academymusicgroup.com

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12 May - *Murder Mystery, steam and supper, new lower price!*
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puzzle drome

Your weekly puzzle challenge

CROSS CODE

22	17	8	13	25	21	19	26	17	■	1	18	8
24	■	15	■	24	■	24	■	21	■	3	■	17
4	24	8	3	1	13	4	■	10	16	1	4	23
■	■	13	■	12	■	20	■	6	■	21	■	8
1	21	2	8	■	23	8	25	■	23	13	4	11
14	■	■	■	4	11	13	8	24	■	23	■	16
26	13	1	5	17	8	■	1	26	13	25	21	8
1	■	3	■	2	8	13	23	8	■	■	■	24
24	1	21	17	■	22	21	8	■	7	21	9	8
21	■	17	■	15	■	10	■	1	■	23	■	■
26	24	21	13	8	■	8	18	10	26	23	8	23
15	■	25	■	25	■	23	■	13	■	26	■	6
23	1	12	■	8	18	25	24	8	15	8	17	12

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 E	9	10	11	12	13 N
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24 R	25	26

Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

CANVASSED THE HUNT

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically.

Quiz Challenge

1. Which female writer created the fictional character Jemima Shore?
2. Which is the longest word in the NATO phonetic alphabet?
3. The whole of the southern coastline of the Caspian Sea laps the shore of which country?
4. Which actress, born in 1944, played a teacher in the film and stage version of Alan Bennett's The History Boys?
5. What word familiar to electricians can also refer to a burden or responsibility, and may be used as an order to attack?
6. What is the nationality of the former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan?
7. What is the only number that when written in English contains all of its letters in alphabetical order?
8. A restaurant named Noma, ranked the best in the world four times by Restaurant magazine, is in which capital city?
9. Tom Holland's breakthrough role was Spider-Man in which 2016 film?
10. Brad Pitt played a character named Tyler Durden in which 1999 film?

NONAGRAM

L	A	Y
R	D	G
G	I	N

How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines:
29 Good; 35 Very Good; 41 Excellent.

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

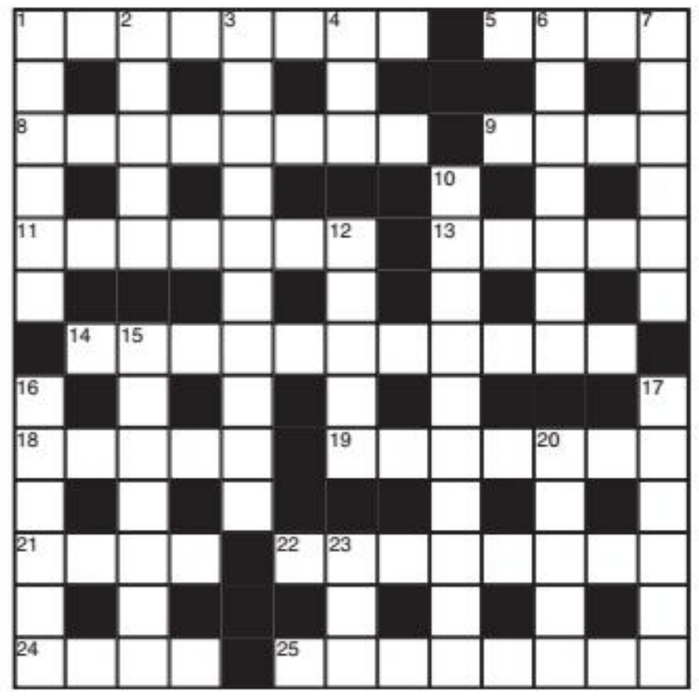
Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber.

FIVE ALIVE

CE	AH	GU	EC	KR
AU	■	NA	■	IN
RS	TA	UT	IM	OP
ED	■	IN	■	TE
SL	AE	ET	KI	NS

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Not a ruddy American pioneer! (8)
5. Just passable (4)
8. Lass gave freely at the gambling venue (3,5)
9. Pins back a small piece (4)
11. Calm achieved despite awful fluster (7)
13. Girl well worth having on the way back (5)
14. I'm realistic that it cannot be done (11)
18. Article found in state waterway (5)
19. Characteristic representative (7)
21. Stern breed (4)
22. One who is a skilled shot, an old German perhaps (8)
24. Sole companion is a cad (4)
25. Brilliant solicitor to set forth (5,3)

DOWN

1. Miserable attempt to follow a friend (6)
2. Coming in close second does not win (5)
3. Does no one pay to see this fight? (4-3-3)
4. Tea, not in China (3)
6. Failure to remember a name is unfortunate (7)
7. Make invalid ring again (6)
10. Game you can barely play if you keep losing (5-5)
12. It's held by solicitors to be permissible (5)
15. Authority for chap given an assignation (7)
16. Burn small capital or church (6)
17. Pat and Len going round the earth perhaps (6)
20. Engraving on a gem arrived with love (5)
23. Scenes MPs make (3)

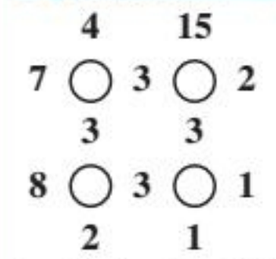
SUDOKU

Easy Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box. **Hard**

	5	3	7				2	
		6				5	7	3
	7	4		5	8	9	6	
7		2		3				5
			4		7	1		
3	1			6				9
8			6	4	1	3		
		1	5		3		9	8

2		1		8				
		8			6			
				5			3	
				3				6
9			4			2		
	2	5						
5			9		8			1
	4						8	
	6	3		2	5			

EQUALISER



Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same.

Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

All puzzles on this page are supplied by Sirius Media Services. To try more of our puzzles interactively online go to **www.puzzledrome.com**

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QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Gear, kit (9)
9. Leafy glade (6)
10. Avoid (4)
11. Equivalent (4)
12. Young bird of prey (6)
13. Cathedral city (7)
16. Warmth (4)
17. Perform again (4)
18. Conifer (3)
20. Shy, bashful (3)
21. Scowl (4)
23. Mexican dollar (4)
25. Distended (7)
26. Ill-will (6)
29. Bristol's river (4)
30. Assess (4)
31. Quality of sound (6)
32. Imaginary place (9)

DOWN

2. Savoury tart (6)
3. Maintain firmly (6)
4. Stream (anag.) (6)
5. Title (4)
6. Betrayal of the state (7)
7. Seethe (4)
8. Standard of judging (9)
13. Winning move in chess (9)
14. Simple (4)
15. Romulus's twin (5)
18. Combustible material (4)
19. Poster (7)
22. African country (6)
23. Not singular (6)
24. Church officer (6)
27. Shapeless mass (4)
28. Always (4)

SOLUTIONS

QUIZ CHALLENGE: 1 Antonia Fraser; 2 November; 3 Iran; 4 Frances de la Tour; 5 Charge; 6 Ghanaian; 7 Forty; 8 Copenhagen; 9 Captain America: Civil War; 10 Fight Club.

CROSS CODE

1 A	2 D	3	G	4	O	5	B	6	K	7	J	8	E	9	V	10	C	11	W	12	Y	13	N
14 Q	M	15	H	16	L	17	X	18	F	19	Z	20	I	21	P	22	S	23	R	24	T	25	U	26	

EASY SUDOKU

9	5	3	7	1	6	8	2	4
1	8	6	9	2	4	5	7	3
2	7	4	3	5	8	9	6	1
7	4	2	1	3	9	6	8	5
6	9	5	4	8	7	1	3	2
3	1	8	2	6	5	7	4	9
5	3	7	8	9	2	4	1	6
8	2	9	6	4	1	3	5	7
4	6	1	5	7	3	2	9	8

HARD SUDOKU

2	5	1	3	8	4	6	7	9
4	3	8	7	9	6	1	2	5
6	9	7	2	5	1	4	3	8
7	1	4	5	3	2	8	9	6
9	8	6	4	1	7	2	5	3
3	2	5	8	6	9	7	1	4
5	7	2	9	4	8	3	6	1
1	4	9	6	7	3	5	8	2
8	6	3	1	2	5	9	4	7

MAGIC SQUARE: vast; ache; shun; tend.

WORD PYRAMID: Immersion heater.

EQUALISER: Clockwise from top left – add; divide; multiply; subtract. Total: 5.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD:

Across – 1 Equipment; 9 Arbour; 10 Miss; 11 Same; 12 Eaglet; 13 Chester; 16 Heat; 17 Redo; 18 Fir; 20 Coy; 21 Lour; 23 Peso; 25 Swollen; 26 Malice; 29 Avon; 30 Rate; 31 Timbre; 32 Dreamland.

Down – 2 Quiche; 3 Insist; 4 Master; 5 Name; 6 Treason; 7 Boil; 8 Criterion; 13 Checkmate; 14 Easy; 15 Remus; 18 Fuel; 19 Placard; 22 Rwanda; 23 Plural; 24 Sexton; 27 Lump; 28 Ever.

QUICK CROSSWORD:

Across – 1 Palefac e; 5 Fair; 8 Las Vegas; 9 Snip; 11 Restful; 13 Tessa; 14 Impractical; 18 Canal; 19 Typical; 21 Bear; 22 Marksman; 24 Heel; 25 Start out.

Down – 1 Paltry; 2 Loses; 3 Free-for-all; 4 Cha; 6 Amnesia; 7 Repeal; 10 Strip-poker; 12 Licit; 15 Mandate; 16 Scorch; 17 Planet; 20 Cameo; 23 Act.

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FIVE ALIVE:

(1) Across – Chuck; Ratio; Seeks.
Down – Curds; Untie; Knots.
(2) Across – Eager; Stump; Latin.
Down – Easel; Gaunt; Ripen.

NONAGRAM:

aldrin; arid; ardly; daggy; dally; darling; dam; dial; diary; dinar; ding; dingy; drag; draggy; drail; drain; dray; dray; drying; dying; gild; grid; glad; gland; grad; gradin; grading; grand; grandly; grid; grind; idly; idyl; lading; lady; laid; lair; land; lard; larding; lardy; lidar; ligand; nadir; nard; niggard; NIGGARDLY; raid; rand; randily; randy; ridgy; rind; yard.

Friday March 2nd

BBC 1

TOP TV

7.30pm MasterChef

MORNING

9.15am Murder, Mystery and My Family
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am Wanted Down Under Revisited
11.45am Caught Red Handed

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm Shakespeare and Hathaway - Private Investigators
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Get Away for Winter
4.30pm Antiques Road Trip
5.15pm Pointless

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm MasterChef
8.00pm EastEnders
8.30pm Room 101
9.00pm Requiem
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.25pm Regional News and Weather
10.35pm The Young Offenders
11.05pm Blades of Glory
12.30am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.35am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

TOP TV

11.05pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story

MORNING

7.15am Wanted Down Under Revisited
8.00am Back in Time for Tea
9.00am Athletics

AFTERNOON

1.45pm Plan it, Build it
2.15pm Yes Chef
3.00pm A Place to Call Home
3.50pm More Creatures Great and Small
4.20pm Greece with Simon Reeve
5.20pm Great British Railway Journeys
5.50pm Athletics

EVENING

10.00pm QI
10.30pm Newsnight
11.05pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story
11.55pm A Hijacking
1.35am The Sheriffs are Coming
2.35am Julius Caesar Revealed
3.35am Royal Recipes
4.15am This is BBC Two
6.00am Nature's Weirdest Events
6.25am Naomi's Nightmares of Nature
6.55am The Pets Factor

ITV

TOP TV

8.30pm Coronation Street

MORNING

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

AFTERNOON

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm James Martin's American Adventure
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING

6.00pm ITV News London
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm Love Your Garden
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Lethal Weapon
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm Piers Morgan's Life Stories
11.45pm Take Me Out
12.35am Jackpot247
3.00am Alphabetical
3.50am ITV Nightscreen

Channel 4

TOP TV

9.00pm Gogglebox

MORNING

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Come Dine with Me
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Extreme Cake Makers

EVENING

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
9.00pm Gogglebox
10.00pm The Last Leg
11.05pm Rude Tube
12.05am 30 Days of Night
2.10am Born to Kill
3.05am Damned
3.35am The Question Jury
4.30am Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny
5.25am Location, Location, Location

Channel 5

TOP TV

7.00pm Inside Kensington Palace

MORNING

8.20am Digby Dragon
8.35am Rusty Rivets
8.55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm NCIS
3.15pm Brace for Impact
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

EVENING

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm Inside Kensington Palace
8.00pm The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard
9.00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald
10.00pm Will and Grace
10.30pm Jo Brand: Secrets of Her Success
11.30pm Jo Brand's Cats and Kittens
12.15am Super Casino
3.10am The X Files
4.00am GPs: Behind Closed Doors
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Nick's Quest

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Over the last 30 years block paving has become the most popular choice for driveways and paths, due to its durability and the huge range of styles and materials available.

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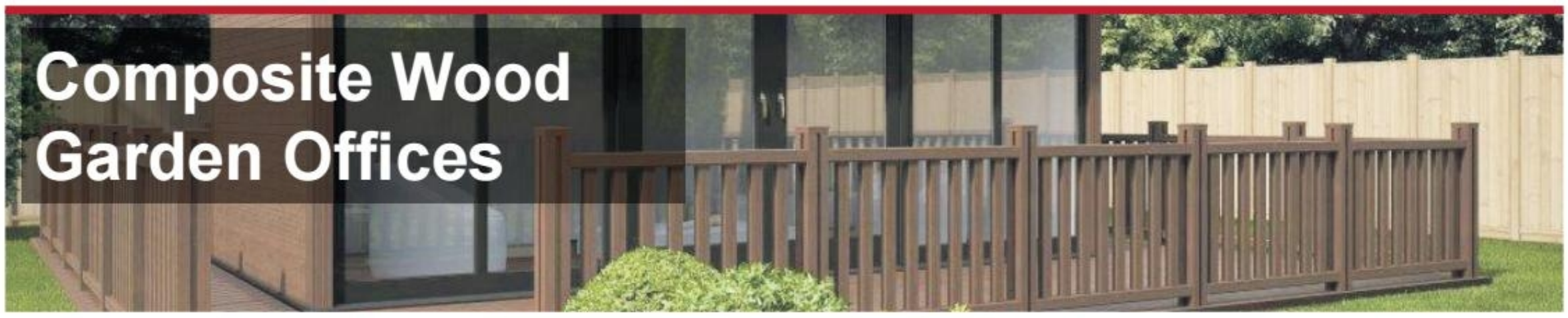
- Project managers
- Church and cathedrals
- Insurance companies
- Building companies
- Business owners/ company directors
- Local authorities
- Councils
- Film companies



Why Composite Wood?

- Extremely Durable
- Contemporary design
- Low maintenance
- Never needs painting – ever
- Eco-friendly
- Portable – keep it if you move

Why Choose Us?

- 25 year Warranty
- Interest free credit
- Free laminate flooring
- Fast response
- No pushy salesmen

A home office, playroom, bar or place to relax and unwind; what will you use your Composite Wood Garden Room for?

Composite wood garden rooms feature highly insulated walls and a warm weatherproof roof for year-round protection from the elements. Designed as a self contained building, our Garden Rooms can be ordered with lighting, heating and electrics included and comes in 5 different sizes, with 4 different colours of Composite Wood to choose from.

Saturday March 3rd

TOP TV

BBC 1

8.20pm Casualty

BBC 2

3.30pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby

ITV

7.00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway

Channel 4

11.00pm Predator

Channel 5

7.00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald

MORNING

10.00am Saturday Kitchen Live
11.30am Classic Mary Berry

7.15am The Dengineers
7.45am Absolute Genius: Monster Builds
8.15am Beyond Bionic
8.45am Robot Wars
9.45am Athletics

9.05am Wishfart
9.25am ITV News
9.30am Saturday Morning with James Martin
11.25am Dancing on Ice

7.10am King of Queens
8.00am Everybody Loves Raymond
9.00am Frasier
10.30am The Big Bang Theory

9.50am Peppa Pig
10.05am Olly the Little White Van
10.10am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.40am Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud
11.10am Police Interceptors

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Football Focus
1.00pm BBC News
1.15pm Triathlon World Series
2.45pm Cycling: World Track Championships
4.30pm Final Score
5.10pm A Question of Sport
5.40pm Celebrity Mastermind

1.30pm Escape to the Continent
2.30pm Me and My Dog
3.30pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby
4.30pm Hugh's Wild West
5.30pm Athletics

1.25pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.30pm ITV Racing: Live from Doncaster
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

12.00pm The Simpsons
12.30pm The Simpsons
1.00pm The Simpsons
1.30pm Come Dine with Me
2.30pm Coast v Country
3.35pm A Place in the Sun
4.35pm The Secret Life of the Zoo
5.35pm The Supervet

12.10pm Police Interceptors
1.10pm Police Interceptors
2.10pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
3.10pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
4.05pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
5.00pm Rich House, Poor House

EVENING

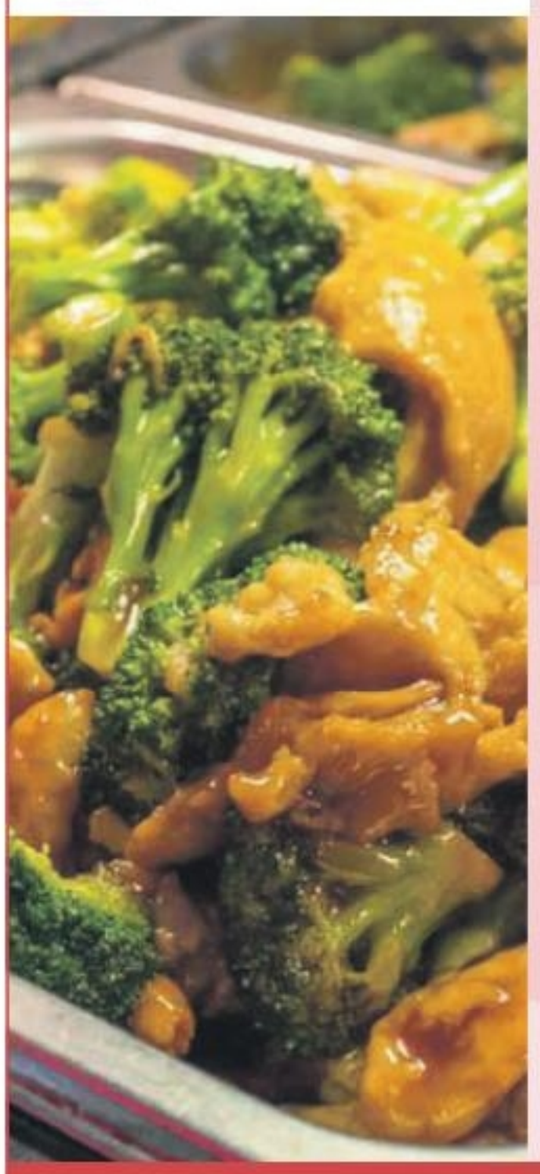
6.10pm BBC News
6.20pm Regional News and Weather
6.25pm Pointless
7.15pm All Together Now
8.20pm Casualty
9.10pm Troy: Fall of a City
10.10pm BBC News
10.30pm Match of the Day
11.55pm My Brother the Devil
1.40am Weather for the Week Ahead
1.45am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

9.30pm A Little Chaos
11.20pm The Help
1.40am Civilisations
2.40am This is BBC Two
6.05am Coast
6.50am A to Z of TV Gardening

6.00pm ITV Evening News
6.20pm ITV News London
6.30pm You've Been Framed!
7.00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
8.30pm The Voice UK
9.50pm Piers Morgan's Life Stories
10.45pm ITV News
11.05pm The Fast and the Furious
1.05am Jackpot247
3.00am Babushka
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
6.00am Sooty
6.10am The Aquabats! Super Show!

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages
8.00pm Britain at Low Tide
9.00pm 10 Cloverfield Lane
11.00pm Predator
1.00am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
1.50am The Last Leg
2.45am Hollyoaks Omnibus
4.55am The Question Jury
5.50am Superfoods: The Real Story
6.20am King of Queens
6.45am King of Queens

6.00pm The Secret Life of Kittens
7.00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald
8.00pm The Queen Mary: Cruising with the Royals
8.55pm 5 News Weekend
9.00pm Football on 5
10.00pm Live Boxing
11.30pm Football on 5
12.00am Super Casino
3.10am Cowboy Builders
4.00am Cowboy Builders
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Nick's Quest
5.35am Wildlife SOS



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Treat your Mum this Mothers Day on Sunday 11th March at Oxy Oriental

STARTERS

Start your lunch meal at Oxy Oriental with one of our fantastic starters. Choose from over 50 amazing starters from our buffet.

Salads
Prawn Crackers
Aromatic Lamb with Trimmings
Sesame Prawn Toast
Deep fried Won Ton
Soups
Spare Ribs in Barbecue Sauce
Onion Rings
Vegetable Spring Rolls
Lemon Chicken
Deep Fried Chicken Wing
Vegetable Curry Samosa
Chips

MAIN COURSES

Continue your lunchtime voyage to Asia and get your taste buds tingling with some of our round the world dishes. Guaranteed to satisfy your hunger.

Pork Chops with Sweet Chilli Sauce
Sweet and Sour Chicken
Beef with Black Bean Sauce
Malaysian Chicken Curry
Vegetable Foo Yung
Stir Fried Egg Plants & Green Beans
Mushroom with Oyster Sauce
Mix Vegetable & Bean Curd with Yellow Bean Sauce
Deep Fried Aubergines
Fried Rice
Boil Rice
Chips
Noodles in Special Soy Sauce
Singapore Vermicelli

DESSERTS

Top off your lunch with something sweet. Don't worry, it's all for one affordable price!

Ice Cream
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DRINKS

Quench your thirst with something from our extensive drinks menu to wash down the best pan-asian food in Oxford.

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Selection of Teas and Fresh Coffee

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Sunday March 4th

BBC 1

4.50pm Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa

MORNING

7.30am Match of the Day
9.00am The Andrew Marr Show
10.00am The Big Questions
11.00am Sunday Politics

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Murder, Mystery and My Family
1.00pm BBC News
1.15pm MasterChef
2.15pm MasterChef
3.15pm MasterChef
3.45pm Money for Nothing
4.15pm Songs of Praise
4.50pm Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa

EVENING

6.05pm BBC News
6.20pm Regional News and Weather
6.30pm Countryfile
7.30pm Hold the Sunset
8.00pm Call the Midwife
9.00pm Strike
10.00pm BBC News
10.20pm Regional News and Weather
10.30pm Match of the Day 2
11.30pm Reign of Fire
1.05am Weather for the Week Ahead
1.10am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

8.00pm Top Gear

MORNING

8.30am Countryfile
9.30am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
11.00am Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge
11.45am Lorraine Pascale: How to be a Better Cook

AFTERNOON

12.15pm MOTD2 Extra
1.00pm Cycling: World Track Championships
2.45pm Athletics

EVENING

6.00pm Back in Time for Tea
7.00pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes
8.00pm Top Gear
9.00pm Life and Death Row
10.20pm The Mash Report
10.50pm Top Gear: Extra Gear
11.15pm Cleverman
12.10am Question Time
1.10am Holby City
2.10am This is BBC Two
6.00am Caught Red Handed
6.30am Get Away for Winter

ITV

12.05am Marcella

MORNING

8.30am Spy School
9.05am Wishfart
9.25am ITV News
9.30am Love Your Garden
10.00am Peston on Sunday
11.00am The Voice UK

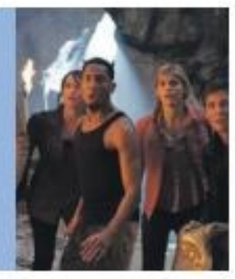
AFTERNOON

12.20pm ITV Lunchtime News
12.30pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
2.00pm What Would Your Kid Do?
3.00pm Britain's Brightest Family
3.30pm Tipping Point
4.30pm ITV Evening News
4.45pm ITV News London
5.00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special

EVENING

6.00pm Dancing on Ice
8.00pm Endeavour
10.00pm ITV News
10.15pm Peston on Sunday
11.15pm The Martin Lewis Money Show
11.40pm 100 Year Old Driving School
12.05am Marcella
1.00am Jackpot247
3.00am Take on the Twisters
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
5.05am The Jeremy Kyle Show
6.00am Good Morning Britain

Channel 4



2.55pm Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters

MORNING

7.10am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.00am Frasier
8.30am Frasier
9.00am Frasier
9.30am Sunday Brunch

AFTERNOON

12.30pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
1.30pm The Simpsons
1.55pm The Simpsons
2.25pm The Simpsons
2.55pm Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters
4.55pm Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb

EVENING

6.40pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Posh Pawn
8.00pm Churchill's Secret Affair
9.00pm Homeland
10.05pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown
11.05pm Lee Mack
12.05am The Haunting
2.00am KOTV Boxing Weekly
2.30am The Supervet
3.25am Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
4.20am Coast v Country
5.10am Superfoods: The Real Story
5.40am Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free

Channel 5

4.25pm The Dirty Dozen

MORNING

9.00am Digby Dragon
9.15am Peppa Pig
9.25am Football on 5
10.15am Football on 5
10.45am FIA Formula E Highlights
11.50am Police Interceptors

AFTERNOON

12.50pm Wyatt Earp
4.25pm The Dirty Dozen
5.25pm 5 News
5.30pm The Dirty Dozen

EVENING

7.20pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
8.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
8.55pm 5 News Weekend
9.00pm When Award Shows Go Horribly Wrong
11.55pm Jo Brand: Secrets of Her Success
12.55am Cruising with Jane McDonald
1.05am Super Casino
3.10am Cowboy Builders
4.00am My Mum's Hotter Than Me!
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Nick's Quest
5.35am Wildlife SOS
6.00am Puffin Rock

Its official.

Hearing aids can do more than improve your hearing.

Following a survey carried out in 2015 by Anovum (a market research company) on 1325 hearing impaired people (605 hearing aid wearers and 720 not wearing hearing aids). The survey reports that hearing aids not only improve capabilities of hearing well but also improved the general health of hearing aid wearers compared to hearing impaired people who do not wear a hearing aid. Hearing aid users are less likely to think they have the symptoms of dementia, feel less physically and mentally exhausted, sleep better and are less likely to suffer from depression.

The survey confirms what some Audiologists have suspected for some time, that hearing aids are not only good for correcting hearing loss but in fact contribute to better and more active lives, better quality of life, and better overall health.

For the hearing impaired workers who wear a hearing aid it is reported that their hearing aids are useful for their job and that the hearing aids also increase the chance of them getting promoted, being in the right job and getting more salary compared to those hearing impaired people who have not obtained hearing aids.

The full report can be found at EuroTrak UK 2015 – ehima

A new hearing system is just the beginning and a hearing aid system is only as good as the audiologist prescribing and programming it.

At Keith Donaghy Hearingcare we offer the best bespoke hearing aid systems virtually unnoticeable fitting comfortably into your ear.

Keith will help you every step of the way whilst you adjust to your new hearing ability, for some this takes months for others a matter of a few weeks but Keith is always on hand to answer questions or give advice on getting the best from your system. The last thing he wants (as is often the case when insufficient aftercare is available) is for your hearing aids to end up in the back of a drawer somewhere, unused because you felt that nothing else could be done to rectify any programming or rehabilitation problems.

Keith wants to know if you have any concerns about your hearing aids, no matter how big or small, so that you and he can work together to achieve the best results.

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Keith Donaghy hearingcare
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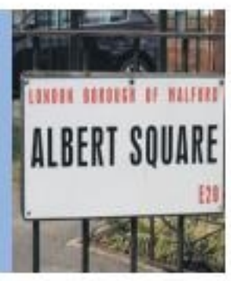
Monday March 5th

TOP TV

BBC 1

8.00pm EastEnders



BBC 2

9.00pm Collateral

ITV

5.00pm The Chase

Channel 4

8.30pm Food Unwrapped

Channel 5

9.00pm The Flying Scotsman

MORNING

9.15am Murder, Mystery and My Family
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am Wanted Down Under Revisited
11.45am Caught Red Handed

7.15am Wanted Down Under Revisited
8.00am Hugh's Wild West
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire
11.00am BBC Newsroom Live
11.30am The Week in Parliament

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

8.20am Digby Dragon
8.35am Rusty Rivets
8.55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm Shakespeare and Hathaway - Private Investigators
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Coast and Country Auctions
4.30pm Antiques Road Trip
5.15pm Pointless

12.00pm The Daily Politics
1.00pm Perfection
1.45pm Plan it, Build it
2.15pm Yes Chef
3.00pm A Place to Call Home
3.50pm Pilgrimage with Simon Reeve
4.50pm More Creatures Great and Small
5.20pm Flog It!

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm James Martin's American Adventure
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Come Dine with Me
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Extreme Cake Makers

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.20pm NCIS
3.15pm Forbidden Secrets
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm Inside Out
8.00pm EastEnders
8.30pm Classic Mary Berry
9.00pm MasterChef
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm Imagine...
11.50pm Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You
12.35am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.40am BBC News

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm Great British Railway Journeys Goes to Ireland
7.00pm Top Gear
8.00pm Only Connect
8.30pm University Challenge
9.00pm Collateral
10.00pm Two Doors Down
10.25pm Big Field
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities
11.45pm Odyssey
12.25am Odyssey

6.00pm ITV News London
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm The Kyle Files
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Marcella
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.35pm ITV News London
10.50pm Serial Killer with Piers Morgan
11.50pm The Detectives: Inside the Major Crimes Team
12.40am The Kyle Files
1.05am Jackpot247

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm Dispatches
8.30pm Food Unwrapped
9.00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody
10.00pm Electric Dreams
11.05pm Married at First Sight
12.10am The ¬£1 Houses: Britain's Cheapest Street
1.05am The Job Interview
2.00am Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
2.55am The Question Jury
3.50am Coast v Country

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights
8.00pm Extreme Winter Road Rescue
9.00pm The Flying Scotsman
10.00pm The X Files
11.00pm The X Files
11.55pm Traffic Cops
12.55am Britain's Greatest Bridges
1.10am Super Casino
3.10am Cowboy Builders
4.00am Witches: A Century of Murder
4.45am House Doctor

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March 2018
9.30am - 12.00pm

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SCHOOL

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Tuesday March 6th

BBC 1

TOP TV

9.00pm Shetland

MORNING

9.15am Murder, Mystery and My Family
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am Wanted Down Under Revisited
11.45am Caught Red Handed

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm Shakespeare and Hathaway - Private Investigators
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Coast and Country Auctions
4.30pm Antiques Road Trip
5.15pm Pointless

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm EastEnders
8.00pm Holby City
9.00pm Shetland
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm This Country
11.15pm The Gap Year Paedophile
12.15am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.20am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

TOP TV

7.00pm Saving Lives at Sea

MORNING

7.15am Wanted Down Under Revisited
8.00am Celebrity Antiques Road Trip
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire
11.00am BBC Newsroom Live

AFTERNOON

12.00pm The Daily Politics
1.00pm The Super League Show
1.45pm Plan it, Build it
2.15pm Yes Chef
3.00pm A Place to Call Home
3.50pm Pilgrimage with Simon Reeve
4.50pm More Creatures Great and Small
5.20pm Flog It!

EVENING

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm Great British Railway Journeys Goes to Ireland
7.00pm Saving Lives at Sea
8.00pm Back in Time for Tea
9.00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby
10.00pm Mum
10.25pm The Archiveologists
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes
12.15am The Inside Story
1.15am Generation Gifted

ITV

TOP TV

7.00pm Emmerdale

MORNING

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

AFTERNOON

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm James Martin's American Adventure
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING

6.00pm ITV News London
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm 100 Year Old Driving School
8.00pm What Would Your Kid Do?
9.00pm 100 Years Younger in 21 Days
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm The Cruise: Voyage to Alaska
11.15pm Benidorm
12.10am Jackpot247
3.00am Loose Women
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
5.05am The Jeremy Kyle Show

Channel 4

TOP TV

4.00pm A New Life in the Sun

MORNING

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
10.00am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Come Dine with Me
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Extreme Cake Makers

EVENING

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer
9.15pm Seven Year Switch
10.25pm Gogglebox
11.25pm Before We Die
12.35am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
1.25am It's a Weird World
2.20am The Supervet
3.15am The Question Jury
4.10am Coast v Country

Channel 5

TOP TV

3.15pm Bond of Silence

MORNING

8.20am Digby Dragon
8.35am Rusty Rivets
8.55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

12.05pm Access
12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm NCIS
3.15pm Bond of Silence
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours
6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight

EVENING

7.00pm Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild
8.00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
9.00pm Wild Britain with Ray Mears
10.00pm Elizabeth: Our Queen
11.05pm The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard
12.05am Weather Terror
1.00am Super Casino
3.10am Cowboy Builders
4.00am Witches: A Century of Murder
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Nick's Quest

Wednesday March 7th

BBC 1

TOP TV

2.15pm Shakespeare and Hathaway - Private Investigators

MORNING

9.15am Murder, Mystery and My Family
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am Wanted Down Under Revisited
11.45am Caught Red Handed

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm Shakespeare and Hathaway - Private Investigators
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Coast and Country Auctions
4.30pm Antiques Road Trip
5.15pm Pointless

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm Panorama
8.00pm DIY SOS the Big Build
9.00pm Earth's Natural Wonders
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm A Question of Sport
11.15pm Film 2018
11.45pm Memento
1.35am Weather for the Week Ahead
1.40am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

TOP TV

4.55pm More Creatures Great and Small

MORNING

7.15am Wanted Down Under Revisited
8.00am See Hear
8.30am Great British Railway Journeys
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire
11.00am BBC Newsroom Live
11.30am The Daily Politics

AFTERNOON

1.00pm Perfection
1.45pm Plan it, Build it
2.15pm Yes Chef
3.00pm A Place to Call Home
3.55pm Pilgrimage with Simon Reeve
4.55pm More Creatures Great and Small
5.25pm Flog It!

EVENING

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm Great British Railway Journeys Goes to Ireland
7.00pm Saving Lives at Sea
8.00pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes
9.00pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story
9.50pm Live at the Apollo
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm Nature's Weirdest Events
12.00am Women's Football
2.10am See Hear
2.40am Flatpack Empire

ITV

TOP TV

9.00pm Benidorm

MORNING

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

AFTERNOON

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm James Martin's American Adventure
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING

6.00pm ITV News London
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm Britain's Brightest Family
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Benidorm
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm UEFA Champions League Highlights
11.45pm Play to the Whistle
12.35am Jackpot247
3.00am Tenable

Channel 4

TOP TV

8.00pm The Supervet

MORNING

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
10.00am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Come Dine with Me
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm Crufts Extra with Alan and Clare
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Extreme Cake Makers

EVENING

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm The Supervet
9.00pm One Born Every Minute
10.00pm Damned
10.35pm 24 Hours in Police Custody
11.35pm 999: What's Your Emergency?
12.30am Pokerstars Championship Cash Challenge
1.25am The East
3.20am The Question Jury
4.15am Coast v Country
5.05am Location, Location, Location

Channel 5

TOP TV

9.00pm Violent Child, Desperate Parents

MORNING

8.20am Digby Dragon
8.35am Rusty Rivets
8.55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.05pm Access
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm NCIS
3.15pm Love You to Death
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

EVENING

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm Extreme Winter Road Rescue
8.00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
9.00pm Violent Child, Desperate Parents
10.00pm Most Shocking
12.55am Super Casino
3.10am Cowboy Builders
4.00am Now That's Funny!
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Nick's Quest
5.35am Wildlife SOS

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Oxford – England's number 1 for growth potential

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

OXFORD has come first with Cambridge a close second as the city with the best growth potential in the England, according to a report published this week by Arcadis. The report highlights Oxford as having substantial potential with only Edinburgh rating higher in the UK.

The report states that Oxford and Cambridge are set to be boosted by the Oxford – Milton Keynes – Cambridge corridor.

Arcadis scored cities in several areas including economic performance, branding, housing, quality of life, quality of place, people, growth and infrastructure. These measures were used to identify the attractiveness for future inward overseas investment for social and economic growth. Oxford achieved a total score of 56.1% with Cambridge on 55.8%, with only Edinburgh topping them within the UK with a score of 65.5%. The report looked at a total of 24 UK cities.

Particularly highlighted were collaboration and JV investments as key to fulfilling the potential, especially in housing and infrastructure – which is a key focus of the Oxford Cambridge Corridor project. The report states that the corridor will improve investment potential by reducing congestion, making housing more affordable and enhancing connectivity. The corridor is expected to play an important part in enhancing future investment, particularly in the following key areas:

- Housing – to reduce the ratio of average house prices to average earnings;
- Road congestion – reducing the hours spent per year in traffic jams;
- Enhanced airport connectivity – to improve journey times to and from key airports

The first two of these has been given top priority in the work of the Oxfordshire Growth Board (consisting of all six Oxfordshire local authorities). The £215 million Housing and Growth Deal between Oxfordshire and the government is expected to be signed off at the end of this month and will support the opening up of new housing sites around the county and the development of a Local Industrial Strategy for Oxfordshire.

Regular readers will know that I have recently written about the challenge of house affordability in Oxford, and the importance of additional new build focussed at the 1,2 and 3 bedroom end of the property market. New supply coming on-stream will ease entry into a congested Oxfordshire property market. Provided there is continued investment in infrastructure enabling easy access to Bicester, Kidlington, Oxford and Abingdon for work and leisure, Oxford's property market will benefit. Oxford is an aspirational place to live and work, and sits at the top of a local property market, that needs new housing supply to avoid housing affordability becoming the factor that limits the City fulfilling its growth potential.

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2018: the year of opportunity for property investors

DESPITE numerous Government legislative changes aimed at stemming the growth of the Buy to Let market, we believe that 2018 will, in fact, be a year of opportunity for serious property investors.

Simply, it is a myth that increased taxation has made investment in the private rented sector unviable. Certainly, it will have put some off - those who fell in to becoming a landlord through being unable to sell an existing home; those who inherited a property; or maybe those who found two halves of a couple coming together and decided to keep one home as an 'investment' – as simply these are less likely to have had a strategically thought-out, long-term vision in place that would anticipate and plan for these obstacles.

And that's the key here. Property investment isn't something to be taken nonchalantly. It may have been in the past, but nowadays it's a much more serious investment route to pursue and consequently it must have more serious guidelines associated with it. But that's not a bad thing...

For landlords who are prepared to take a strategic approach, we believe that buy to let remains a very positive investment option. Indeed, where investors have been put off and have therefore exited the market, those who remain and take a business approach, are given first access to the best of the rental properties – that's no bad thing!

However, the opportunities for growth in the private rented sector here in Oxfordshire specifically, are magnified further due to a unique combination of factors.

Simply, it is anticipated that the number of young people aged 18-25 in the region will grow by over 11 per cent in the next 20 years and recognising the struggles that this segment of society has in taking its first step on the property ladder, it means that added demand will be placed on the private rented sector. When added to the high percentage of students and transient academic staff in the area and the increasing popularity of Oxfordshire as an accessible location within close proximity of strong transport links, the opportunities for those investing in the private rented sector here are increasingly clear.

The fact remains, however, that successful property investment isn't simply a case of taking advantage of market demands, but also of investing in the right type of property, in the right area and marketing it at a competitive price. To tick all these boxes, whilst also ensuring compliance in an increasingly complex market, you'll want to know that you've got a local property expert on your side.

This is where the team at your local branch of Andrews comes in. There are five branches across Oxfordshire and a wealth of information and guidance on our website – www.andrewsonline.co.uk – so if you've been considering becoming a landlord and are prepared to take a long-term business approach to this, why not engage with the team at Andrews and take advantage of the opportunities that we believe 2018 have in store.

PROPERTY WEEKLY

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WHEATLEY
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WADDESDON
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WHEATLEY £735,000
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OAKLEY £590,000
NO CHAIN - much improved and extended *4 bed *4 recep *3 bath

HORSPATH £895,000
Stunning four bed detached family home

LITTLEWORTH £525,000
Four bed detached house with PLANNING GRANTED FOR ANNEX

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Four bed detached chalet bungalow in great location

WHEATLEY £340,000
Three bedroomed terraced home with garage

OAKLEY £285,000
Two bedroomed semi-detached house in GREAT CONDITION THROUGHOUT

HORSPATH £365,000
Two bedroomed detached bungalow on elevated plot with great views

WHEATLEY £325,000
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Four bedroomed detached family home in popular location

GARSINGTON £425,000
Three/four bed detached bungalow in great condition

CHALGROVE £280,000
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Andrews

Denton Close, North Abingdon. £287,500

A superb two bedroom semi-detached house with neutral decoration throughout and a contemporary kitchen and bathroom. EPC Rating - C

Ramsons Way, Abingdon 320,000
Light and airy three bedroom property located in North Abingdon 1.1 miles away from the town centre. EPC rating - D

Burcot £600,000
A superb Four Bedroom/Three Reception detached family home in a sought-after South Oxfordshire Village, tucked at the end of a cul-de-sac. EPC - D

Central Abingdon £235,000
One bed ground floor apartment in the popular Quakers Court development. 0.2 miles from Abingdon marketplace. EPC Rating - C

Abingdon £250,000
Two bedroom, two bathroom ground floor apartment with patio area. Neutral decoration throughout. EPC Rating - TBC

Abingdon £260,000
A spacious 3 bedroom family home with a garage, situated less than a mile to Abingdon Town Centre. EPC Rating - D

Long Wittenham £425,000
A super four bed detached family home with solar panels tucked away in a cul-de-sac within the popular village of Long Wittenham. EPC Rating - D

Ock Street, Abingdon 325,000
A delightful two bedroom home offering period charm with a modern finish and is beautifully presented throughout. EPC Rating - E

Fyfield £850,000
Nestled in the heart of this picturesque Oxfordshire village, is this exquisite double fronted, five bedroom detached cottage. EPC Rating D

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Major milestone for retirement builder.... as Wantage development hits 50% sold out

RENAISSANCE Retirement has announced it has reached a major milestone having sold 50 per cent of its new retirement apartments in Wantage.

The development opened in November and sales have been encouraging with over 15 apartments sold to date, making it one of the company's fastest selling developments.

Over £1m of top end retirement apartments were sold in the opening week when the company opened the doors to the public and the company has reported another two sales in January.

The development, built on the former magistrates' court and Police station on Church Street, comprises 32 one and two bed spacious apartments. The company has been attracting a wide range of interested buyers from the local area.

Renaissance Retirement's sales director Matt Smith said: "It's a very encouraging start. We are now over 50 per cent sold out and have good interest in a number of apartments. It's an exciting time for potential buyers having this choice of size of apartment and central location in Wantage."

Matt added: "There is very strong interest in the Wantage area for good quality retirement apartments. Our sales message is clear – come and view some very smart, spacious, energy efficient flats while there's good availability."

Chris Wotton, marketing director at Renaissance Retirement, said: "If it's an easier lifestyle people are looking for this is perfect. Only a few hundred steps to the market square you have superb access to the very best Wantage offers on your doorstep."

Renaissance Retirement claims it's responding to market demand with its development which offers bigger more spacious retirement flats.

The luxurious properties will provide an exceptional standard of independent living for those considering downsizing from a larger family home.

The spacious one and two bedroom apartments are impeccably finished with contemporary interiors, whilst owners also have access to an owners' drawing room and landscaped gardens.

Renaissance Retirement has a distinguished history; the company was handpicked by HRH Prince of Wales to build a landmark collection of retirement apartments in the heart of Poundbury, Dorchester.

Noticing a demand for luxury retirement housing, Renaissance Retirement design, build and manage luxury retirement developments,

with communal areas meticulously cleaned and maintained to ensure a level of comfort that one would expect in a 4 star hotel.

The company offers a number of added owner incentives and benefits, and Renaissance's complementary SmoothMove Service – which is offered to all owners at no extra cost – has proven particularly popular. This bespoke service includes a dedicated SmoothMove Consultant, who can offer advice and assistance with downsizing, the planning and setting up of their new home, and administrative tasks.

Prices start from £290,000 to £475,000.

Interested buyers can drop in for a tour Monday to Sunday 10.30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To register your interest for a brochure, and for further information, visit: www.renaissancegroup.co.uk or 01235 766398 for more information.

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*T&C's: For instructions from new clients, and marketing to commence between 1.1.18-31.3.18 logged to either holiday@davistate.com or by quoting HOLIDAY OFFER when setting up the valuation in the first instance, on a minimum 16 week sole agency agreement, with standard Terms and Conditions. Closing date 1.4.18, draw will be held 14 days after. The £1000 voucher is to be redeemed against a holiday booked through www.travelbyinspire.co.uk. The prize has no cash alternative, is non-transferable, and the Winner will be the first entry drawn. The winner must be willing to be photographed for marketing purposes. Where applicable, the decision of the judges is final based on the criteria set out in the promotion and no correspondence will be entered into over this decision.

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Suzuki Ignis 1.2 SHVS SZ5

Ignis 4x4 – the right car at the right time

By **Tony Yates**

I'm going to start by saying 'why is it still snowing'. We are now into March, but it's still freezing. And, as I write, the snow is still falling faster than I can remove it from my footpath.

Of course, I have children, so the snow is a good thing for them because of the fun factor. For me though, I'm very happy sitting in the warm watching them play until I hear. 'dad, come and have a snowball fight'. That's when it all goes a bit fuzzy, because I know I will be the one getting pounded with snowballs just for fun!. Saying that, this week's review of the Suzuki Ignis is right on target because its a 4x4, meaning the snow can come down as hard as it likes and the Ignis will just keep plodding on.

So if it's snowing by you right now, then I suggest you nip down to your local Suzuki dealer and ask for a demo. Talk about being in the right car at the right time.

Power & efficiency

The Ignis is powered by a four-cylinder Dualjet petrol engine that produces 90ps at 6000rpm and 120Nm at 4400rpm. 0 to 62 mph is dealt with in 11.5 seconds – moving onto a top speed of around103 mph.

The official fuel economy figures from Suzuki are; 60.1 mpg (combined) with a CO2 rating of 106 g/km - although the best I could get was around 50mpg, but then I was not really trying to get near what Suzuki had said was possible.

On the road

I like the way the little Ignis handles – but I do feel the suspension is a little bouncy - saying that, when the road gets twisty – it is more than capable of holding its own thanks to a good balance of chassis and suspension. When you think about it, it actually performs rather well and I was really impressed by this. Of course, this means it gives you a lot of confidence into the corners, which in turn makes it quite the drive. Also, when the road gets twisty – you have that wonderful Suzuki ALLGRIP 4-wheel drive system keeping you formally in check. Yes, you heard that correctly, a 4-wheel drive system that does a very nice job indeed of keeping you glued to the tarmac with no muddy fields involved whatsoever.

Design & technology

My test car was fitted with decent seating and clever interior accents, which lifts even the most boring of interiors – not that the inside is boring, but you do sense that the Ignis was set out to be more practical than luxurious. Saying that it's quite plush and all the dials and controls are easy to use. But, and its a small one, some of the plastics on the inside could have been better quality.

Space – well let's just say for a small car it has bags of it - along with a decent driving position and plenty of room in the back for most adults to sit in reasonable comfort. The boot is also pretty good, with max luggage capacity coming in around 1,086 litres.

Some of the standard features fitted to my test vehicle included; LED daytime running lights, LED projector headlamps, ALLGRIP 4-wheel drive system, DAB digital radio with 4 speakers, USB, Bluetooth and iPod, driver and passenger front, side and curtain airbags, ABS with EBD, Electronic Stability Program, Hill Hold Control and Hill Descent, automatic headlights, automatic air conditioning, 16" alloy wheels, cruise control with speed limiter and rear parking camera.

To sum up

Suzuki has done a fantastic job here - and I expect the Ignis to do well as a feature-packed supermini that doesn't cost the earth.

Standard price (on-the-road) £15,499

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Fuel consumption figures for the Jazz EX 1.3 i-VTEC Manual mpg (l/100km): Urban 45.6mpg (6.2L/100km), Extra Urban 62.8mpg (4.5L/100km), Combined 55.4mpg (5.1L/100km). CO_2 emissions: 120g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model Shown: Jazz EX 1.3 i-VTEC Manual in White Orchid Pearl at £17,615 On The Road (OTR). Terms and Conditions: New retail Jazz EX 1.3 i-VTEC petrol ordered from 01 February 2018 to 31 March 2018 and registered by 31 March 2018. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Not to be used along with any other offers currently available. 0% APR representative Honda Aspirations (PCP): Maximum customer deposit 30%. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Excess mileage charge includes VAT at current rate. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Johnsons Cars Limited are credit brokers, not lenders. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL. Honda Financial Services is a trading name of Honda Finance Europe Plc. Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL a company registered at Companies House No 03289418. Honda Finance Europe plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Financial Services Register number 312541. 5 Years £599 Servicing: Please visit www.honda.co.uk/cars/offers. Johnsons Cars Ltd (Firm Reference Number: 512460) are an Appointed Representative of ITC Compliance Ltd, and are authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (their registration number is 313486) and are permitted to advise on and arrange General Insurance contracts. Registered Name: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Registered Office: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Empire Court, Albert Street, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 4DA. Registration No. 3716766. VAT Registration No. GB927551606.

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Volvo XC40 crowned What Car? Car of the Year

- Volvo's first ever compact SUV named What Car? Car of the Year 2018
- XC40 also takes Best Family SUV title
- Praised for its style, quality, comfort and safety
- Volvo XC60 wins What Car? Safety Award

The Volvo XC40 has won the What Car? Car of the Year 2018 award, just four months after it went on sale.

The What Car? judges were seriously impressed with the premium XC40, saying: "This is a big moment for Volvo, because the XC40 has beaten some truly exceptional rivals to win here. With its mix of comfort and class, safety and style, the new XC40 excels in all the areas that are important to buyers.

The XC40 brings a new level of flair and desirability to the compact SUV class. It mixes bold looks with cutting-edge technology, along with class-leading safety and ingenious interior storage.

Every version of the XC40 is also exceptionally well equipped. Even entry-level versions come with a nine-inch touch screen control system, satellite navigation, LED headlights, dual-zone climate control with a sophisticated interior air-quality system, and 18-inch alloy wheels. The innovative Volvo On Call remote control and emergency assistance system is also standard on every model.

Volvo's sophisticated Pilot Assist system is available across the XC40 range. This semi-autonomous drive technology assists with the steering and controls the braking and acceleration required to keep the car safely in its lane and at the desired cruising speed or at a set distance from any vehicle in front.

Commenting on the awards, Jon Wakefield, Managing Director of Volvo Car UK, said: "Winning the overall What Car? Car of the Year award for the XC40 is a fantastic result – not just for everyone here in the UK, but for Volvo as a global company. The XC40 perfectly showcases the bold new direction Volvo is taking, and brings our class-leading connectivity, semi-autonomous drive technology and innovative storage solutions to the premium compact SUV segment.

"We are immensely proud of the XC40, and for the experts at What Car? to award it their ultimate accolade is the perfect start to what will be a hugely significant year for Volvo."

For more information on the Volvo XC40 and XC60, and to use the online configurator, please go to www.volvocars.com/uk

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2012-62 **FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI ZETEC,** Silver, 5 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, 37673 Miles ..... WAS £10,995 NOW £10,495

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2015-15 **FIAT 500 1.2 S,** Red, 3 DR, RCL,PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, 24200 Miles ..... WAS £9,995 NOW £6,795

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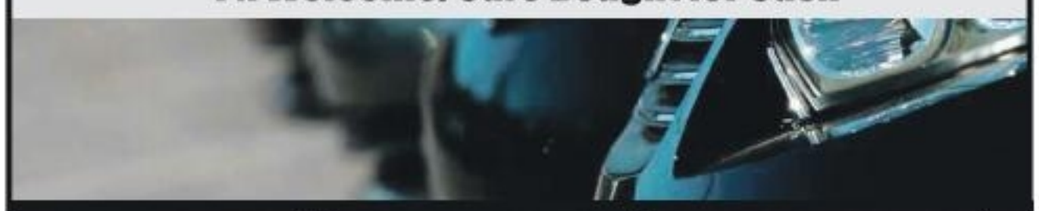

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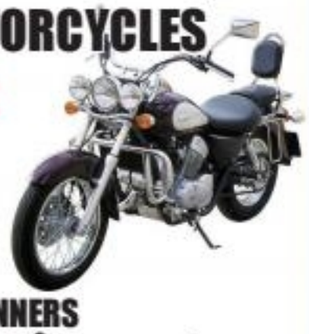

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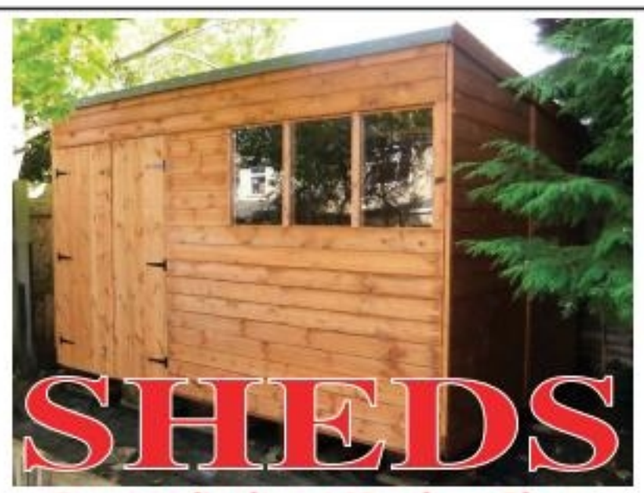

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MARIELLE, 45yrs, curvy attractive lady, likes older men. I'm married so you must be discreet. Lets meet up, and make each other smile again. Call me and lets get to know each other. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 426853**

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MALE, 65, widower, WLTM lady for companionship and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 429265**

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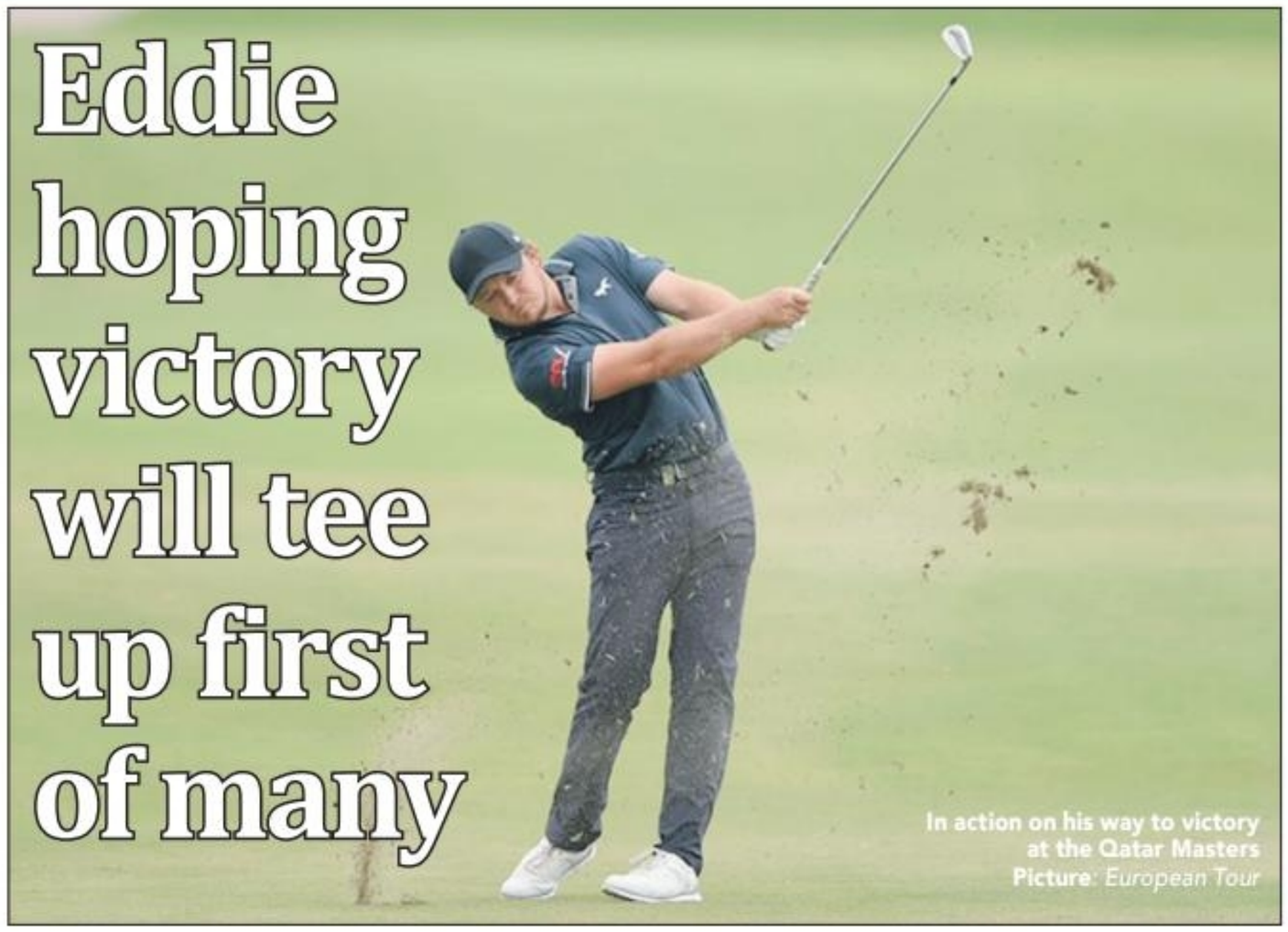
By George Welch

Eddie hoping victory will tee up first of many



In action on his way to victory at the Qatar Masters Picture: *European Tour*

Golf

HE threw his ball into the crowd before launching his cap in triumph.

He then ran his hands through his hair and puffed his cheeks almost in disbelief.

But Eddie Pepperell had done it – he had won his first European Tour title.

The Abingdon golfer held off compatriot Oliver Fisher on the final day to win the Qatar Masters and claim his first tour title at the 129th attempt.

Pepperell admitted it required mental strength to get over the line, although he did proudly acknowledge being in a 'bad' state the following morning.

He shot a 70 in the final round to finish on 18-under par for the tournament, one shot clear of the fast-finishing Fisher.

The 27-year-old had not exactly launched into 2018 in blistering form, but that takes nothing away from his sublime achievement.

"To pull it off is amazing," a jubilant but composed Pepperell said.

"What a day. I felt good all day, I felt comfortable.

"I didn't feel that comfortable with my swing but I was in a great place mentally and I kept telling myself that I'm going to win this."

He added: "This will give me confidence. When you win, you know you can win.

"I've always felt and believed I will win out here but it hadn't happened before today.

"You've always got to take that step and that's uneasy but at some point in everyone's career they've got to do something for the first time.

"Hopefully this is not my last."

Pepperell compiled stunning rounds of 65, 69 and 66 to begin the final round in a share of first place.

He opened up a three-shot lead at the turn, although an impressive fightback by Fisher meant the pair were separated by just a single stroke as they went up the par five last.

Fisher could have forced a play-off but missed a birdie putt from 10 feet on the 18th.

Pepperell won €236,315 (around £210,000) for winning and sits 13th in the early season Race to Dubai standings. He is not in action this week.

Stars outshine the opponents

Ice Hockey

OXFORD City Stars made light work of struggling Swindon Wildcats II and Invicta Mustangs as the division's top side cruised to a four-point weekender.

Swindon's second team lost 9-2 the last time the sides met and despite a more resilient fight back in Sunday's encounter, the Stars' quality proved too much for the visitors who skated to an 8-6 win.

Neither side was afraid to attack as both pushed each other to the limits.

The Wildcats took the early lead but goals from Stewart Tait and Joshua Cox swung things back in Oxford's direction, only for Harvey Robson to level with a second left on the clock in the first period.

The score remained tied at the end of the second period as both teams notched a further three goals, but Kamil Kinkor, Cox and Dax Hedges finished the game off in the third period.

On Saturday, Jamie Thompson earned a shut out against Invicta in his first match back with the Stars.

The final score in Gillingham was 6-0 to City, with Cox and Kinkor both getting on the score sheet alongside Theo Bundock and Martyn Gray.

Stars remain top of the NIHL South 2 on 42 points.

Snow hits Barcelona testing after promising start for teams

Williams race driver Sergey Sirotkin, pictured, was slower than reserve driver Robert Kubica. Picture: *Williams Martini Racing*

Carlos Sainz takes the RS18, which has promised more reliability, for a spin. Picture: *Renault Sport Formula One Team*

Kevin Magnusson spent a lot of time in the garage during the first testing sessions. Picture: *Haas F1*

F1

RESERVE driver Robert Kubica proved his worth by putting in a faster time than Sergey Sirotkin, who pipped the Pole to a Williams race seat, in his first official run out.

The Russian rookie was 0.327secs faster on day two of testing at a damp and chilly Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, where all 10 teams tested their new cars ahead of the 2018 season.

Kubica, who has only partial movement in his right arm as a result of injuries sustained in a rally accident in 2011, finished P7 from 39 laps compared to Sirotkin's P8 from 52 laps.

Weather conditions have masked performances of all the cars but Kubica believes Grove-based Williams have "achieved the maximum we could".

He was left encouraged by his first run-out: "It is not easy to jump into a new car with such difficult weather conditions and have the confidence to push, but I think we did some important work, although it was short.

"It gave us, and especially myself, an idea of how to work better for the future to address some areas where we can improve the car."

The 33-year-old did, however, admit work needed to be done on 'some issues'.

Lance Stroll took the Williams for a 46-lap stint without any problems on Monday.

But it was Renault who enjoyed the most satisfying opening day of testing.

The Enstone-based outfit impressed with Nico Hulkenberg fourth quickest before Carlos Sainz, in for the afternoon session, took the RS18 to 99 laps for the day.

Day two was even colder and Sainz, surprised to manage 65 laps, was in for both the morning and afternoon sessions, recording a P5 finish.

McLaren's Fernando Alonso unexplainably lost his right rear wheel on Monday while for Banbury's Haas, heavy drizzle towards the middle of the afternoon meant their first day rather fizzled out.

Romain Grosjean managed 55 laps before Kevin Magnussen hopped in the cockpit for a "difficult" 36 laps in Tuesday's session.

Snow fall caused delays to the start of day three yesterday (Wednesday).

The second and final winter test, also to be held at Barcelona, will start on March 6. The lights go out for the new season in Melbourne on March 25.

■ Williams have confirmed Martini will not extend its title sponsorship when it expires at the end of the season. Deputy team principal Claire Williams stressed the team is on a secure financial footing.

Crews reveal their blues for 2018 boat races

Rowing

THE official Blue Boat crews were revealed for this year's Cancer Research UK Boat Race on Monday.

There were several former Blues and notable new additions for both races, showcasing the very best collegiate athletes in the world's best known Varsity match.

On the women's side, former Osiris athlete Katherine Erickson returns to Oxford from a year abroad as president of the Women's Boat Club to make her Blue Boat debut.

Former Princeton University scholar Sara Ushma and US lightweight international Morgan McGovern provide experience and power in the middle of the crew.

Oxford weigh in at 70.9kg, with the scales tipped slightly in Cambridge's favour at 73kg.

Oxford University Men's Boat Club, winners in four of the last five Boat Race encounters, name a crew with three returning Blues.

Joshua Bugajski and Vassilis Ragoussis both raced in last year's winning crew, while Will Geffen competed in 2015.

Anders Weiss, a former US Olympian, is a new name on the Dark Blue roster.

Cambridge start as the heaver of the men's crews at 89.8kg per man, compared to Oxford's 85.6kg.

The 164th Men's Boat Race and the 73rd Women's Boat Race will take place over the famous course on Saturday, March 24.

Sport

'Great signing' adds two more

By George Welch

Oxford City

MARK Jones marked Oxford City's disappointing 2-1 defeat at Concord Rangers at the start of February as a 'turning point' after his side made it three wins on the bounce on Saturday.

City's defeat against the fellow strugglers made it five games without a win but a tactical shake-up since then has reversed the Hoops' fortunes.

The weekend's impressive 2-0 win at home to Chelmsford City not only completed the double over the Essex side but made it three successive wins against promotion-hunting teams.

Jones said: "That was definitely a low moment at Concord and after we felt that if we carry on the way we are we could be in trouble, even though we have good players.

"We've changed things, brought a couple of players in and changed the shape to a 3-4-3 system and it's paid off for us."

He added: "Sometimes as manager you try things and it doesn't come off. I'm not saying it was a tactical masterstroke but what we didn't do is just accept it.

"We wanted to do something about it and thankfully it's come off for us."

Saturday's win was secured after another telling impact from Milton Keynes Dons loanee Sam Nombe, who netted both goals to take his tally to five goals in two and a bit games.

Should Oxford survive, which they should do easily if last month was anything to go by, Nombe's signing will have been a significant factor.

Singing the praises of his new start man, Jones said: "Sam looks like a great signing for us. Five goals in three games – what a start to his time here with us.

"He's got good pace, knows where the goal is and is a real threat for us.

"Working up there alongside Matt Paterson and Zak McEachran or Rob Sinclair looks like a potent front three."

Clearly enjoying his stay in Oxfordshire, Nombe said it is "a great joy" to be playing at Court Place Farm.

Sam Nombe runs through two Chelmsford City players. Picture: *Michael Allen*

City, up to 14th and 10 points above the National League South relegation zone, travel to mid-table side Wealdstone (12th) on Saturday.

Ford laments panic and lack of composure in draw

Banbury United

IT was a frustrating two points dropped for Banbury United who rounded off an unbeaten February with a disappointing 1-1 draw at home to Kings Langley on Saturday.

The Puritans took the lead via a 79th minute Elliot Sandy spot-kick but sat back and, according to boss Mike Ford, 'got what they deserved' when they conceded a 94th minute leveller.

It is now five games unbeaten for United, but Ford cut an irritated figure after a poor defensive display caused the third draw of the month.

He said: "We couldn't cope with going into the lead. We just hacked at it, panicked and showed no composure.

"We lost all the composure that we'd shown in the previous two weeks – that's ultimately what cost us."

Sandy was felled in the box and the midfielder dusted himself off to score the opener from the spot.

Kings Langley refused to give up though and grabbed an 94th minute equaliser when Jorrell Johnson headed home from six yards.

Ford added: "If we want to be a team that are going to be challenging in and around the top boys then when you're not your best you need to win the game 1-0.

"We got so deep, defensive and negative. You get what you deserve and I think the last 10 minutes we got what we deserved."

Banbury (8th), six points off the play-offs, travel to St Neots Town (11th) on Saturday.

Hat-trick hero McDonagh wins over new team-mates

Evo-Stik round-up

NEW signing Conor McDonagh impressed his new Kidlington team-mates by bagging a hat-trick on his full debut in a 4-0 romp at promotion hopefuls Bideford.

The former Banbury United forward seized on a defensive lapse to give the Greens the lead at the end of a fairly even first half.

Mark Janes bent in a second on the hour before McDonagh made it 3-0 with 15 minutes left.

He completed his hat-trick in injury-time, racing clear of a ragged home defence to find the back of the net.

Struggling North Leigh ended their horrendous run of results with a remarkable 1-1 draw at home to runaway leaders Taunton Town.

The Millers, who had picked up only one point from their previous 10 games, fell behind to a Craig Veal foal on 15 minutes but Declan Shepperd ensured the points were shared with a left-footed effort on 56 minutes.

Elsewhere in the Evo-Stik South West division, Didcot Town came from two goals down to draw 2-2 at Yate Town and stay in fourth place.

An Adam Price goal on the half hour mark and a second half Steve Davies penalty gave the home side the two-goal advantage.

But Diddy fought back via a George Jeacock penalty on 53 minutes and, four minutes later, a Callum McNish strike.

Meanwhile, in the east division, Dan West scored the only goal of the game to give Thame United a 1-0 victory at home to Cambridge City.

Callum McNish pulls Didcot Town level in their 2-2 draw at Yate Town
Picture: *Roger Neal*

Cup glory for Littlemore after weathering Wheatley storm

Rugby

SMALL errors cost Wheatley a chance of cup glory as Littlemore held the Oxfordshire bragging rights with a 23-10 win in the 2018 Shield final at Iffley Road on Saturday.

Littlemore weathered sustained periods of intense pressure from Wheatley who could not capitalise on the chances they created.

A slow start saw Wheatley concede in the sixth minute to a Stuart Beal penalty before Jonny Gerrard broke the narrow defence to score out wide three minutes later.

Aaron Laman reduced the deficit with a penalty but the score could have been worse if not for Sanda Mpanza's try saving cover tackles as the purple wall did its best to avoid further breaches.

Littlemore's Luke Ward found space to burrow over for a try on the stroke of halftime with Beal adding the extras as Wheatley's attacking display went unrewarded.

In the second half, Wheatley were aggrieved at conceding a penalty for 'careless use of the boot', which Beale duly converted.

Wheatley upped the intensity soon after and Jack Taylor eventually found enough space to ghost through and cross the line with Laman adding the conversion, but Littlemore were able to see out the match.

Wheatley are back in league action on Saturday against Tadley.

Vanarama National League South
Saturday 24 February
Oxford City 2-0 Chelmsford City

Evo-Stik South Premier
Saturday 24 February
Banbury United 1-1 Kings Langley

Evo-Stik South East
Saturday 24 February
Thame United 1-0 Cambridge City
Tuesday 27 February
Hartley Wintney P-P **Thame United**

Evo-Stik South West
Saturday 24 February
Bideford 0-4 **Kidlington**
North Leigh 1-1 Taunton Town
Yate Town 2-2 **Didcot Town**
Tuesday 27 February
Bideford P-P **North Leigh**
Wednesday 28 February
Kidlington P-P Shortwood United

Uhlsport Hellenic League Premier Division
Saturday 24 February
Fairford Town 2-2 **Abingdon United**
Flackwell Heath 4-0 **Wantage Town**
Tuesday 27 February
Oxford City Nomads 2-3 Binfield
Tuffley Rovers P-P **Wantage Town**

Freds given what four by Flackwell

Hellenic round-up

IT was a disastrous day at the office for Wantage Town who were thrashed 4-0 at Flackwell Heath.

The Freds are now just three points ahead of the Buckinghamshire side in the Hellenic Premier Division following the heavy defeat at Wilks Park.

The south Oxfordshire side dominated early on, Nick Thorne going closest with a fierce drive on 11 minutes.

Despite dictating play, the Alfredian's fell behind to a 34th minute Dean Allen goal. Town failed to regroup and a couple of Jordan Dowdican goals in the final five minutes of the half made it 3-0 at the break.

Charlie Samuel added the extras for Flackwell on 79 minutes.

Meanwhile, Abingdon United conceded a last minute equaliser as they had to settle for a 2-2 draw at Fairford Town.

Conor Lynch gave Fairford a third minute lead before Tom Butler levelled the scores for United.

Abingdon took the lead five minutes into the second half thanks to a John Dennis strike but Steve Alman's side were pegged back when Lynch grabbed his brace in stoppage time.

Oxford City Nomads lost their fourth league game in a row after their fixture at home to Binfield on Tuesday night beat the weather.

The development side lost 3-2, with goals from Craig Fasanmade (16 minutes) and Connor Mattimore (93).

Nomads are the only team in league action at the weekend, as they prepare to welcome Brimscombe & Thrupp (7th) to Marsh Lane.

Important point to start era, but it could have been more

By George Welch

Northampton Town 0
Oxford United 0

Attendance: 7,095 (1,444 away)

Wes Thomas heads against the post
Picture: Steve Daniels

THE Tiger era started with a draw if not quite a roar as Oxford United stopped the rot of three successive defeats with a 0-0 stalemate at Northampton Town on Saturday.

Both strugglers had their chances to nick the win, with United weathering a first-half storm before dominating the second period.

But for the U's, who started the weekend just five points above the relegation zone and four ahead of the Cobblers, avoiding defeat at Sixfields was imperative.

Caretaker boss Derek Fazackerley was relieved to get the new era for the club under way with a clean sheet and an important point.

He said: "Keeping a clean sheet, getting a point and keeping the points difference between us and Northampton in an away game was important.

"The players deserved it. It would have been cruel if we hadn't got something out of the game.

"One or two decisions we made in the attacking third maybe cost us at times but in general I'm reasonably pleased with the performance, particularity the defending.

"If anyone was going to win the game towards the end I thought it would be us."

Chris Long missed a hat-trick of chances for Northampton, including two inside the first 18 minutes, while, at the other end, Richardinho's goalbound shot was blocked on the line by Brendan Moloney.

In the second half Isaac Buckley-Ricketts clipped the top of the crossbar as Oxford grew into the game with Ryan Ledson also whipping a long-range effort narrowly wide.

The best opening of the entire game fell late on to Wes Thomas, who should have won it for Oxford but missed the target from six yards.

Skipper John Mousinho was delighted to secure a first clean sheet in nine games.

"We have been working a lot on our defence work and from that point of view we were really pleased", he said.

Oxford remain 15th but moved six points clear of the League One relegation zone.

They host 20th-placed Fleetwood Town, who are a place and a point above the trap door, in another huge game on Saturday.

Ex-U's striker scores to add to her former team's woes

OUFCW

EX-OXFORD United Women star Ini Umotong scored against her former teammates for the second time in two matches.

The Brighton & Hove Albion striker scored the fourth goal in an easy 5-1 Seagulls win over the U's last week.

Umotong, who also netted in November's 2-2 draw, grabbed a well-deserved goal on the south coast with a fine finish nine minutes from the end.

The defeat made it four away losses on the spin for the homesick U's, who remain in sixth place in the WSL2.

Aileen Whelan was the stand out player at Culver Road, scoring a hat-trick.

It was Kate Natkiel who opened the scoring though with a rifled finish on four minutes.

Whelan opened her account on the half hour mark, converting from an Umotong knockdown as Brighton dominated.

United were back in it on the hour when Chloe Chivers found the back of the net from distance.

Whelan (71 minutes) restored the two-goal cushion with a clinical finish following some more impressive play from Umotong.

Umotong, Oxford's top scorer between 2016 and 2017, made it 4-1 and Whelan (84) rounded the win and her hat-trick with an unstoppable finish.

Oxford are next in action on March 25 when they entertain Millwall Lionesses.

'So proud to have been chairman'

DARRYL Eales said his three-and-a-half year stint as chairman of Oxford United was a "privilege".

The private equity expert from Birmingham took a step back last week after Thai businessman Sumrith 'Tiger' Thanakarnjanasuth took over the club as chairman and majority shareholder.

Under his stewardship, Eales, who will maintain an influential role on the club board, implemented a coherent plan that transformed a drifting League Two club into a third-tier side with Championship ambitions.

Promotion, Wembley experiences (albeit defeats), cup runs and some scintillating performances are undoubtedly the highlights since Eales took the helm in the summer of 2014.

Frustrations over stadium ownership will linger, but Eales looks

back on his tenure fondly, both as a chairman and a football fan.

He said: "It has been a privilege to serve as chairman over the past three-and-a-half years.

"To be part of a team which changed the culture and mindset of the club and achieved promotion from League Two was fantastic.

"Crowds have risen from around 5,000 to an average of over 8,000 and there have been unforgettable moments, not just two trips to Wembley but the promotion day against Wycombe and the wins over Swansea and Newcastle, not forgetting those great battles against our rivals from Swindon.

"I am so proud to have been part of that."

He added: "Sharing so many experiences with our fantastic fans - sometimes on the terraces with them - has been a personal highlight."

Eales also said an update on a new training ground would be provided "in the very near future".

For the latest U's news keep in touch at: oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Blackburn Rovers	35	32	72
2	Shrewsbury Town	34	19	68
3	Wigan Athletic	31	39	66
4	Rotherham United	34	19	62
5	Scunthorpe United	35	12	57
6	Plymouth Argyle	35	1	53
7	Charlton Athletic	33	2	51
8	Peterborough United	34	9	50
9	Bradford City	34	-3	50
10	Portsmouth	35	-2	49
11	Gillingham	35	0	46
12	Bristol Rovers	34	-3	46
13	Southend United	33	-9	44
14	Doncaster Rovers	35	-1	42
15	Oxford United	34	-2	42
16	Blackpool	34	-2	42
17	Walsall	34	-5	41
18	AFC Wimbledon	35	-12	38
19	Northampton Town	35	-22	38
20	Fleetwood Town	34	-11	37
21	Oldham Athletic	33	-12	36
22	MK Dons	34	-15	32
23	Bury	34	-22	29
24	Rochdale	30	-12	26

OxVox backing for Tiger's takeover of U's

OXFORD United's supporters club has thrown its 'wholehearted support' behind the club's new owner and chairman.

OxVox met Sumrith "Tiger" Thanakarnjanasuth and Darryl Eales in recent weeks and, sworn to secrecy, admitted it has been a 'frustrating' time for fans.

In a statement released last week, the group said: "Tiger takes over at a time when the club faces a number of key challenges on and off the field.

"We look forward to hearing Tiger's plans and to working with him for the good of Oxford United and its supporters.

"Our new Thai owner joins a club whose fans are eager for it to build on the recent successes, and will offer their wholehearted support to any owner that shares their ambitions to see a progressive football club that OUFC fans and the wider community can be proud of."

Tiger promised his ambitions for the club 'match if not exceed' those of the fans.

OxVox also used its statement to pay tribute to outgoing chairman Eales.

The group praised the "huge contribution" the businessman has made to the club over the last three and a half years.

The statement hailed league and cup successes as well as progress with staff development, player recruitment and an exciting playing style.

OxVox also commended Eales for the development of women's football, youth football and community work.

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More sport inside: U's: Eales 'proud to be chairman' | Ice Hockey: Stars outshine opponents | F1: Snow hits Barcelona in first testing week

Tiger hoping to pounce soon and unveil new U's manager

Bellamy rules himself out

By George Welch

NEW owner and chairman Sumrith Thanakarnjanasuth has promised to announce a new Oxford United manager 'imminently'.

Thanakarnjanasuth, known as Tiger, confirmed at his formal unveiling on Monday that Craig Bellamy was one of four candidates the club is speaking to about the vacant manager's job.

Former Wales striker Bellamy, currently part of Neil Warnock's backroom staff at Cardiff City, has long been the bookies' favourite to replace Pep Clotet, who was sacked more than five weeks ago.

But on Tuesday night Bellamy, who is a pundit for Sky Sports, revealed he had withdrawn from talks.

Tiger refused to confirm who the other candidates were but that an announcement was due to be made by yesterday (Wednesday). There was no further update as we went to press in the morning.

The Thai businessman told this newspaper on Monday: "We haven't decided on anyone yet, [not] until within a day or two.

"I wish [for a swift appointment], if there is someone and we like him. It may not happen, so I don't want to commit to anything.

"I know it is important to make the decision as soon as possible."

The 55-year-old had experience of recruiting a manager during his stint at Championship side Reading.

He was part of a consortium that ran the club for three years until last May, but was only more hands-on in the final year.

Tiger spoke proudly of his appointment of former Manchester United defender Jaap Stam, who steered the Royals to the play-off final, at which point Tiger left the club.

Sumrith Thanakarnjanasuth met the media for the first time on Monday

He said: "I talked to six or seven guys face-to-face and my last two candidates were Jaap Stam and Erik ten Hag [now at Ajax] and finally I had Stam in the team.

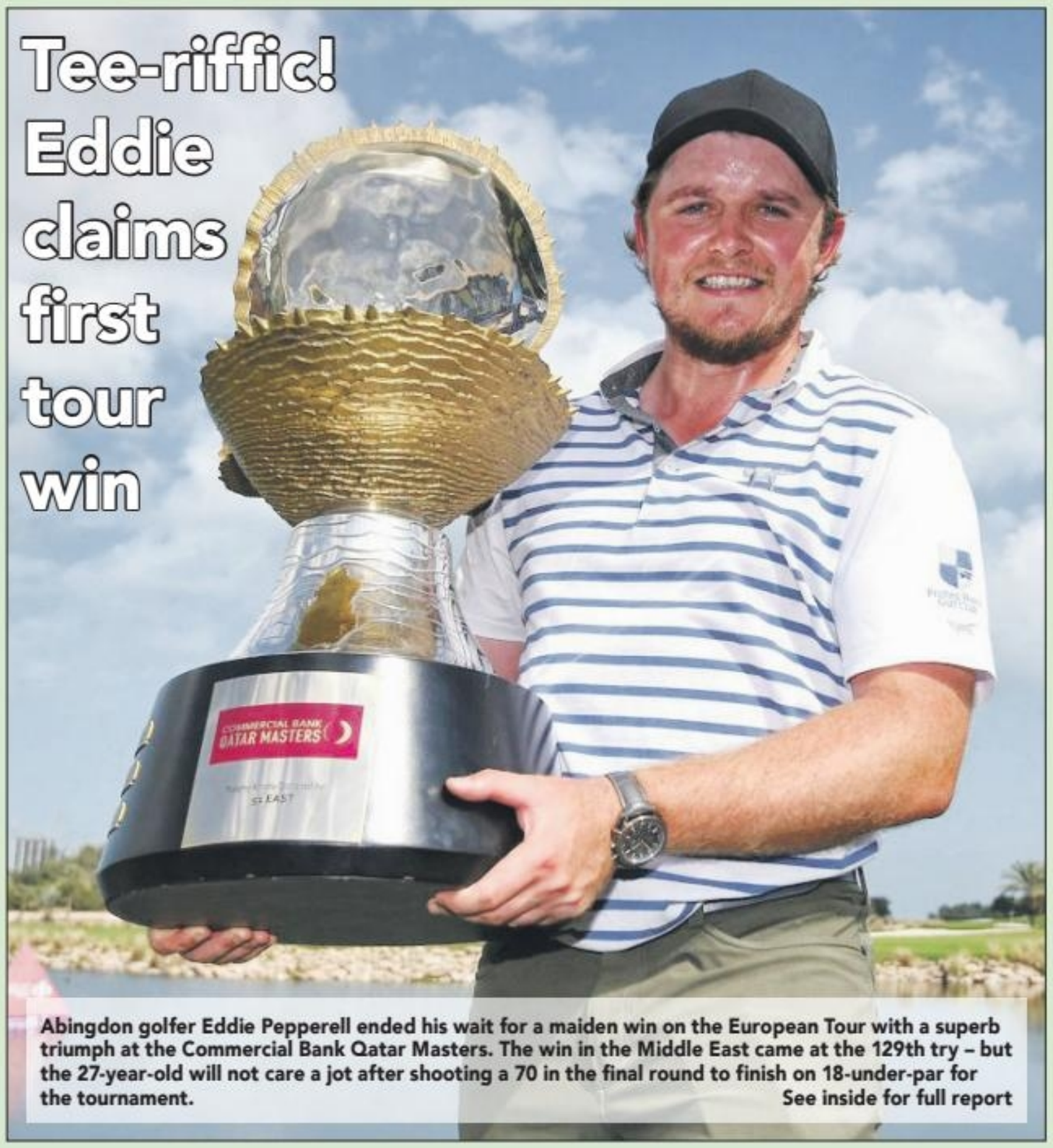
"You can bring in world class managers but there is no guarantee that you are going to be a success.

"There's your common sense – track record, past record, performance, personality, management, is all involved – but I think 30 per cent is your gut."

Tiger, who gets his nickname from the year of his birth in 1962, the Year of the Tiger, confirmed he invested in the club's January transfer window, prior to his formal takeover last Thursday.

After arriving more than an hour late to his press conference – the rail network was to blame – full details of his ambitions for the club were thin on the ground.

Tee-riffic! Eddie claims first tour win



Abingdon golfer Eddie Pepperell ended his wait for a maiden win on the European Tour with a superb triumph at the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters. The win in the Middle East came at the 129th try – but the 27-year-old will not care a jot after shooting a 70 in the final round to finish on 18-under-par for the tournament.

See inside for full report

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